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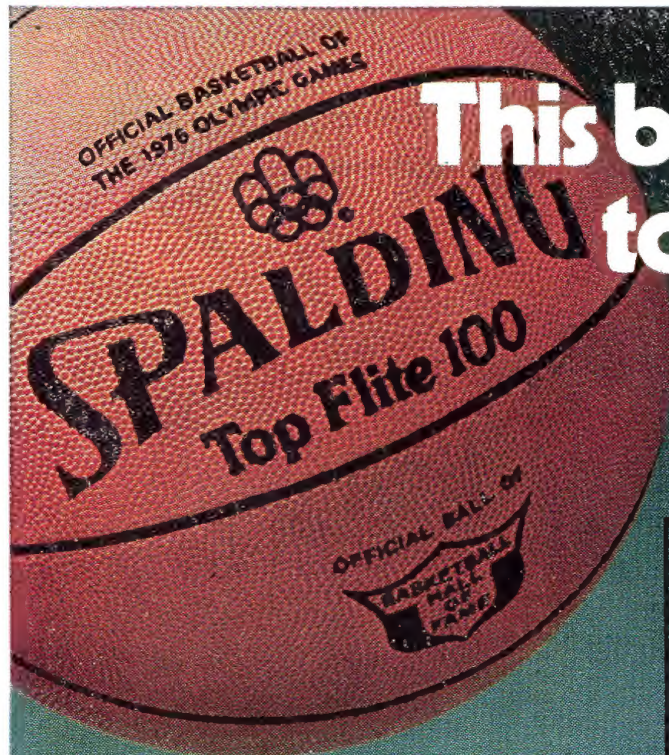
BLACK GOLIATH

VS. THE STILT MAN



"WHEN GIANTS
CLASH!"





This ball is going to the Olympics.

You could, too!



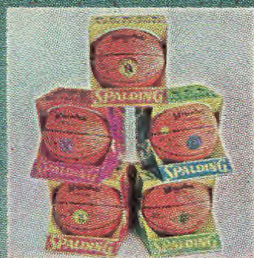
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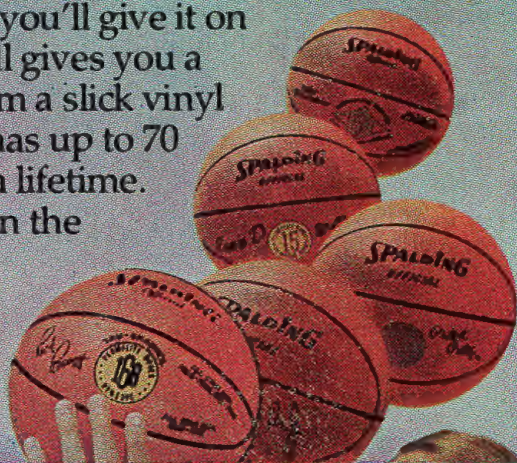
But its leather cover is not for your outdoor game.

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Spalding. The name the game grew up with.



SPALDING



QUESTOR

BILL FOSTER—Dr. William Barrett Foster, DSc, PhD—a child of the GHETTO who has pulled himself up out of the Los Angeles slums to become director of one of the nation's most prestigious research labs. A man whose research has given him the power to instantaneously grow to a height of FIFTEEN FEET, with the strength of a TRUE GIANT. A man who has become...a HERO.

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

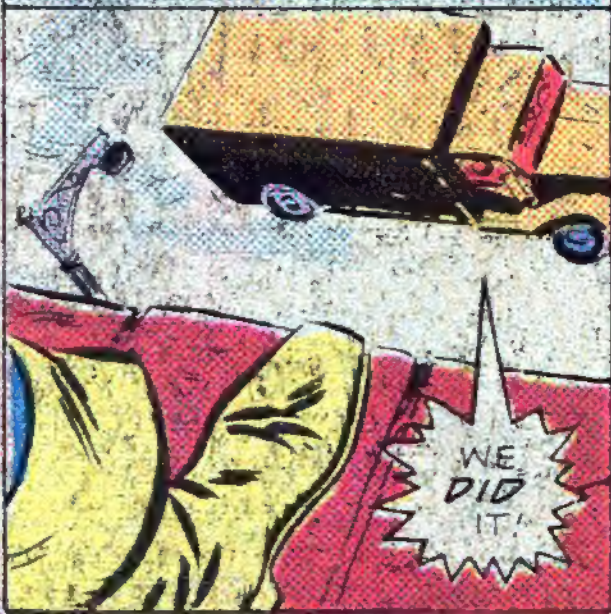
BLACK GOLIATH!™

CHRIS CLAREMONT * R. BUCKLER & DON HECK
AUTHOR ARTISTS

* A. KAWECKI, LETTERER * MARV WOLFGAN
B. WILFORD, COLORIST * EDITOR

THIS IS THE CITY--LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA. LARGEST CITY IN THE 3rd LARGEST STATE IN THE UNION. ABOUT THREE MILLION PEOPLE LIVE HERE--AMID THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF AUTOMOBILES AND SMOG IN THE UNITED STATES. UNFORTUNATELY, NOT ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE ARE NICE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, ONE OF THEM IS A SUPER-HERO.



FIVE MILLION IN CASH AND NEGOTIABLE SECURITIES--THE RIP-OFF OF THE CENTURY--



CORRECTION, GENTLEMEN--

--YOU ALMOST PULLED IT OFF.

BUT, AS WITH SO MANY THINGS THESE DAYS, "ALMOST" IS NOWHERE NEAR GOOD ENOUGH!

YUP, L.A.'S GOT ITSELF A BONA FIDE SUPER-HERO ALL RIGHT--BUT, UNLESS HE GETS VERY LUCKY, THIS CITY OF ANGELS MAY NOT HAVE HIM TOO MUCH LONGER. FOR THIS IS THE DAY THE LOS ANGELES BASIN RESOUNDS WITH THE CRY:

"ENTER STILT-MAN.."

"EXIT BLACK GOLIATH!"

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SORRY TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE, BOYS--BUT THIS MONEY REALLY ISN'T YOURS...

...AND YOU LEFT THOSE BANK GUARDS PRETTY CHEWED UP WHEN YOU MADE YOUR GETAWAY.

OH, BY THE WAY, IF YOU'RE WONDERING HOW I FOUND YOU, WHY NOT CALL IT...MAGIC?

YOU CALL IT MAGIC, I'LL CALL IT A MICRO-CIRCUIT, POLICE-BAND TRANSCEIVER WORKED INTO THE FABRIC OF MY BELT. MODERN TECHNOLOGY STRIKES AGAIN!

WHOOOPS--TROUBLE!

KILL HIM!

POW!

BUT HOW'RE YA SUPPOSED TA SHOOT A FREAKIN' GIANT?!

I'M TRYIN' TO, F'R CRYIN' OUT LOUD--!

TIME TO GO, FOSTER--THAT GOON'S BOUND TO GET YOUR RANGE EVENTUALLY...

...AND, CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, WE GOLIATHS DO MAKE SOMEWHAT OBVIOUS TARGETS. SO DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK.

BESIDES, WHY STAY ON TOP OF A TRUCK THAT'S HEADING STRAIGHT INTO...

THAT WALL!!

KRAK!

EDDIE, YA DUMB CROCK, TURN THE TRUCK--WE'RE GONNA CRASH!

WRONG TENSE, PAL--YOU HAVE CRASHED.

AND IF I DON'T MOVE FAST, YOU'RE GOING TO FRY AS WELL. THE ENGINE'S EXPLODED!

NO TIME TO CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT--IF THESE OLD WAREHOUSES CATCH, THIS WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD'LL BURN!

POP!

SO, WHEN IN DOUBT--AS HANK PYM USED TO SAY--IMPROVISE!

OH, COME ON...ARE YOU CLOWNS STILL SPOILING FOR A FIGHT? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.

HE'S A SITTING DUCK--GUN HIM DOWN AN' GRAB THE CASH!

SP. LOSS SH!

NO WAY, GENTS-- YOU'VE GOT A DATE IN L.A. SUPERIOR COURT, AND I'VE GOT A FIRE TO PUT OUT.

MIGHT AS WELL ZAP TWO BIRDS WITH ONE FIRE HYDRANT.

VOILÀ!

WE HAD IT MADE, BIG MAN--THIS HAUL WOULD'A SET US UP FER LIFE--

--BUT YOU HADDA TAKE IT AWAY FROM US!

THOSE ARE THE BREAKS, PAL. YOU KNEW THAT WHEN YOU HIT THE BANK.

ON YOUR TOES, GOLIATH--

--THAT RIFLE HE'S CARRYING--WHERE HAVE I SEEN IT BEFORE?



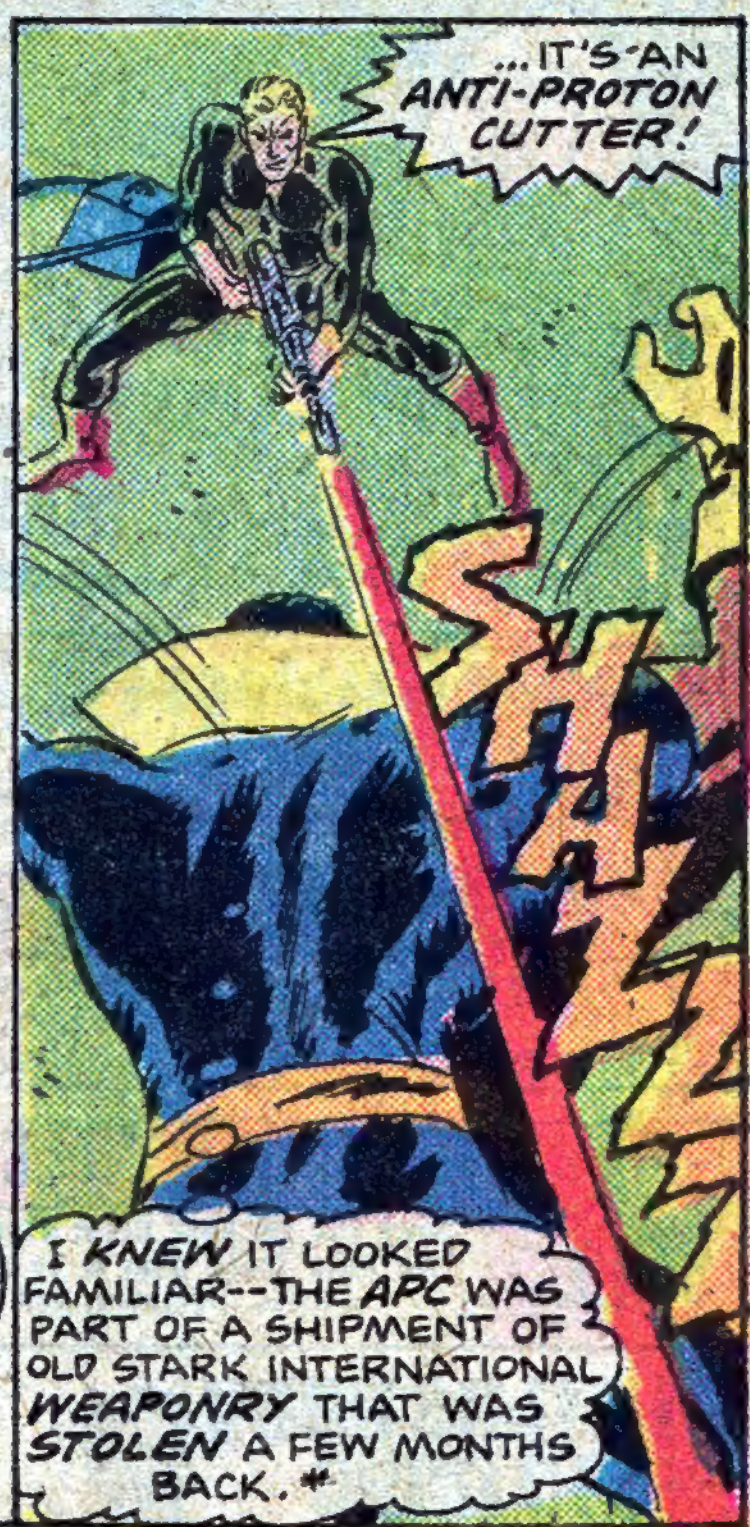
WHY NOT MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF, FELLA?

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT RIFLE OF YOURS IS GOING TO BE ANY MORE EFFECTIVE THAN YOUR FRIENDS' PISTOLS?



I DON'T THINK, BIG-MAN-- I KNOW!

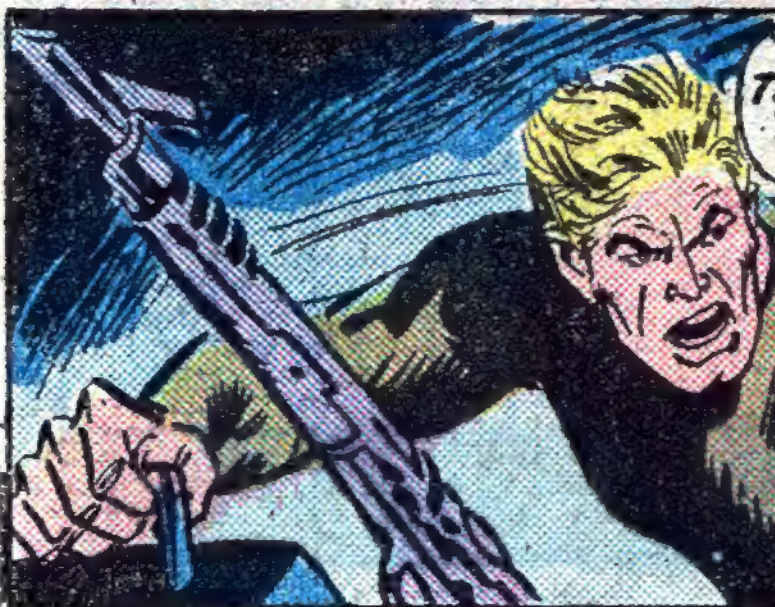
--AN' THIS AIN'T JUST A RIFLE...



...IT'S AN ANTI-PROTON CUTTER!

I KNEW IT LOOKED FAMILIAR--THE APC WAS PART OF A SHIPMENT OF OLD STARK INTERNATIONAL WEAPONRY THAT WAS STOLEN A FEW MONTHS BACK. *

*CAPTAIN AMERICA #192 OR THEREABOUTS; CHECK IT OUT.--MARV.



YOU AIN'T CATCHIN' ME THAT EASY, MISTER--AN' I CAN AFFORD A COUPLE'A MISSES.

'CAUSE ALL I NEED IS ONE HIT--

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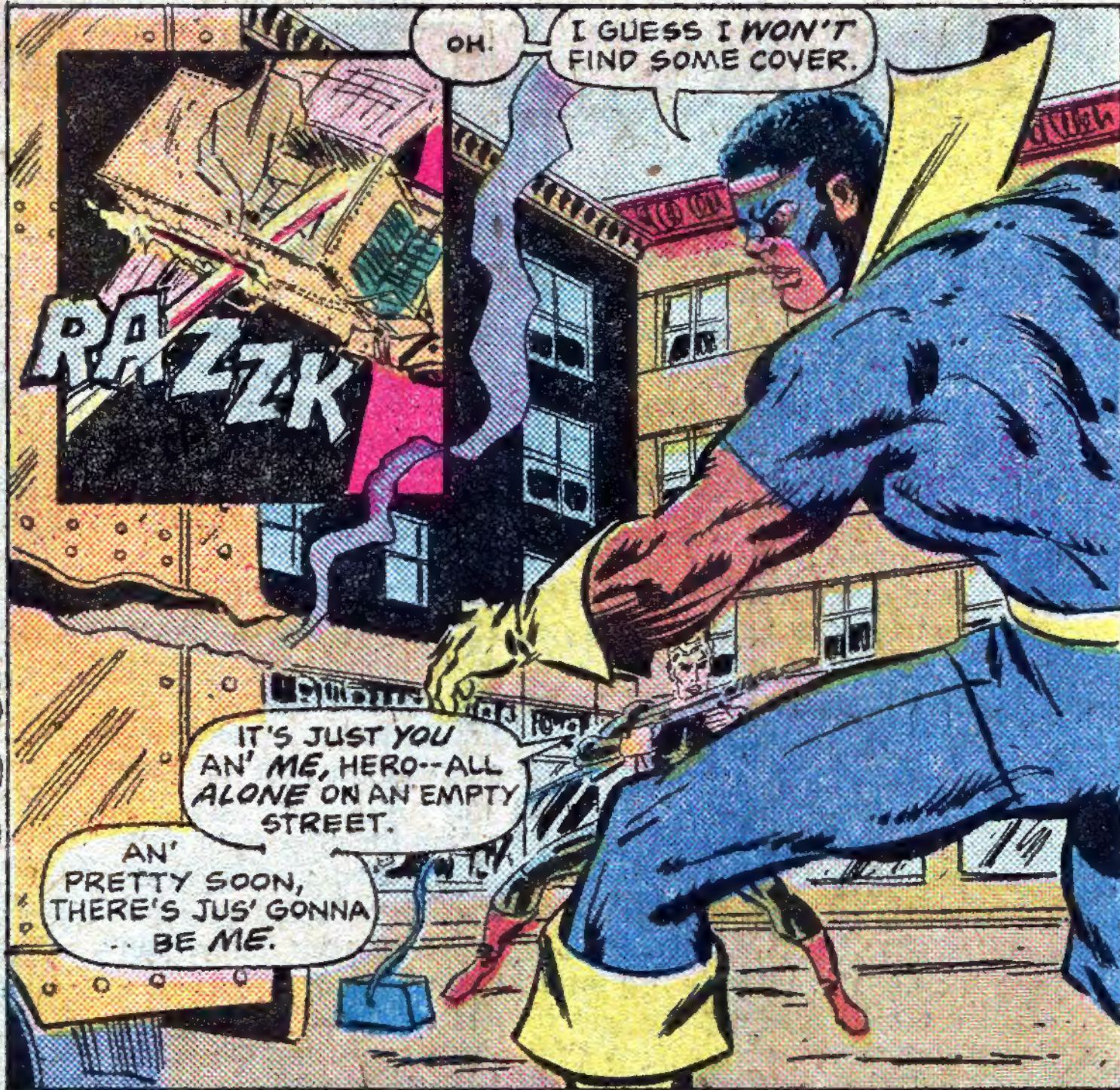
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HE'S NOT KIDDING!

THAT BEAM'S DESIGNED TO SLICE ACROSS NUCLEAR LINES OF FORCE--IT'S A FLAT PLANE OF ENERGY THAT'LL CUT THRU ANYTHING!

I'VE GOT TO FIND SOME COVER!



OH.

I GUESS I WON'T FIND SOME COVER.

RAZZZ!

IT'S JUST YOU AN' ME, HERO--ALL ALONE ON AN EMPTY STREET.

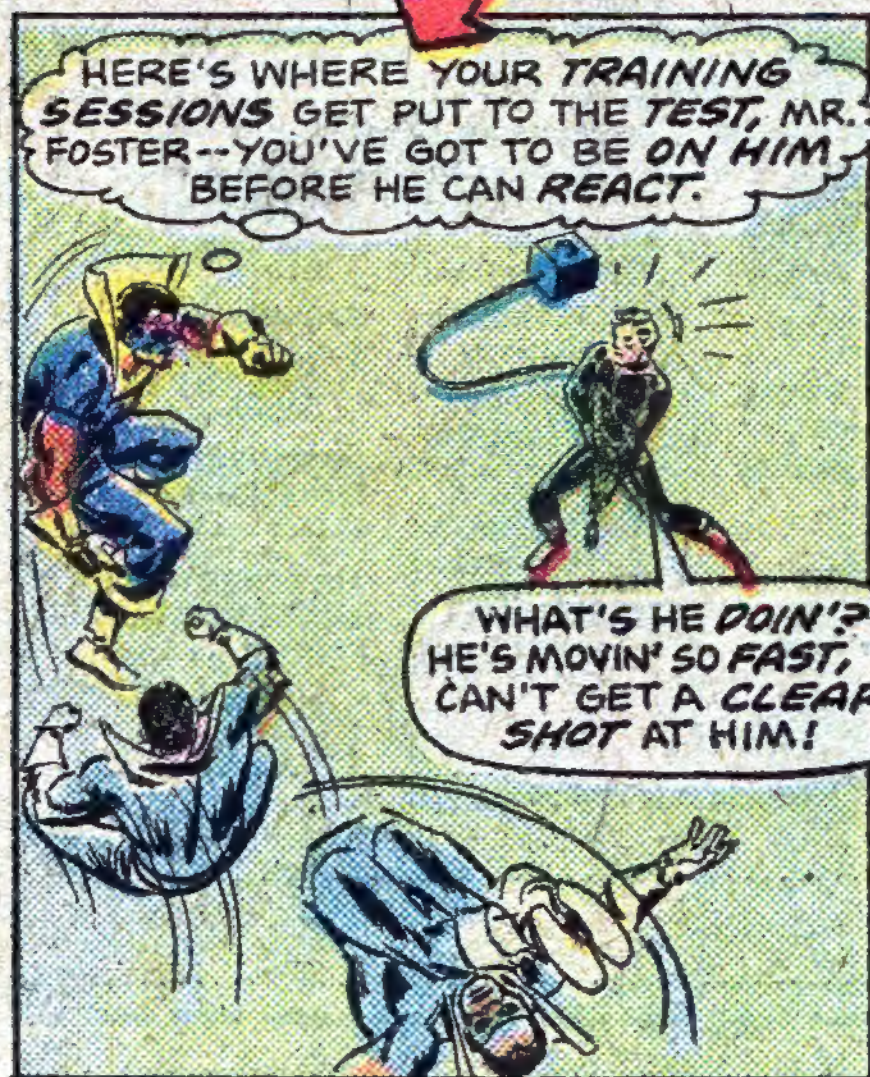
AN' PRETTY SOON, THERE'S JUS' GONNA BE ME.



Y'KNOW SOMETHING, FELLA--?

YOU TALK TOO MUCH.

MISSED!



HERE'S WHERE YOUR TRAINING SESSIONS GET PUT TO THE TEST, MR. FOSTER--YOU'VE GOT TO BE ON HIM BEFORE HE CAN REACT.

WHAT'S HE DOIN'? HE'S MOVIN' SO FAST, I CAN'T GET A CLEAR SHOT AT HIM!



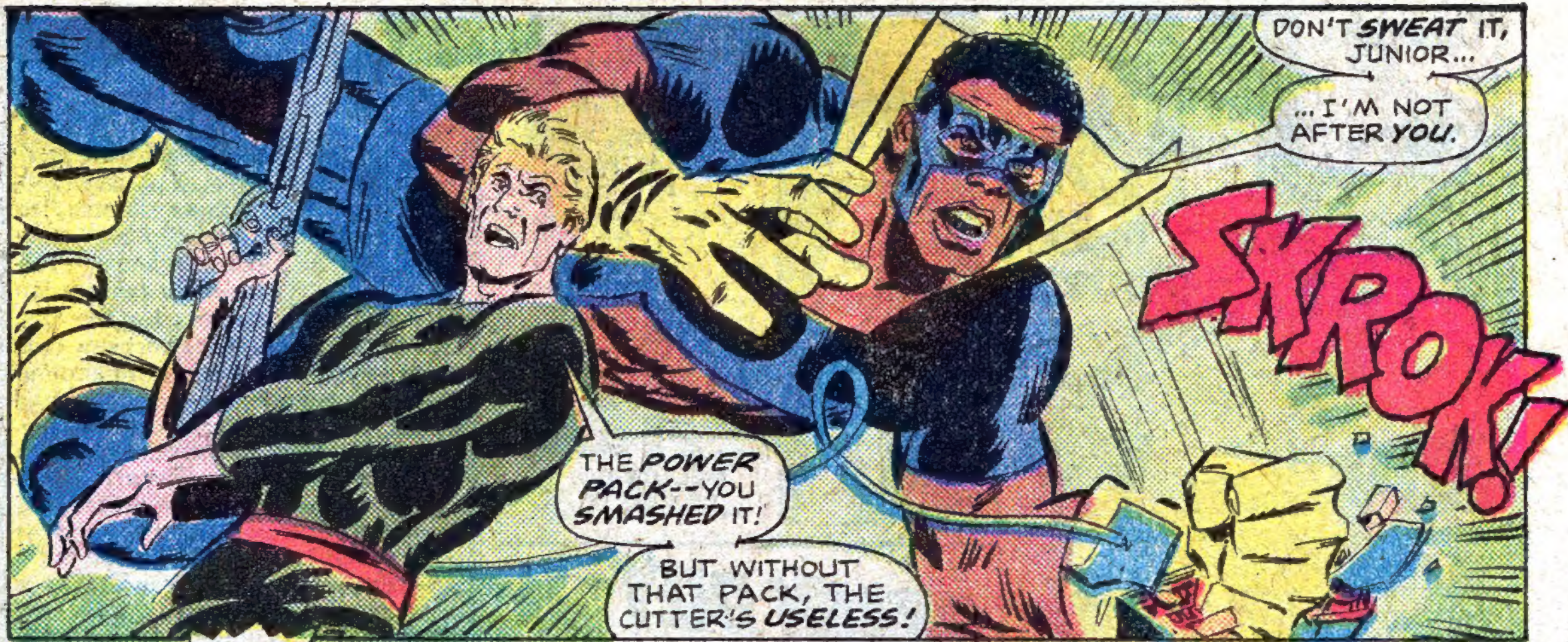
THAT'S THE IDEA, CRUMB!

WELL, I'LL BE-- HE'S FROZEN IN HIS TRACKS, TOO SCARED TO MAKE A MOVE.

GUESS THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT BEING TACKLED BY A GOLIATH THAT'LL FREAK OUT ANYONE.

NO! KEEP AWAY FROM ME--!

KEEP AWAY!!



DON'T SWEAT IT, JUNIOR...

...I'M NOT AFTER YOU.

SKROK!

THE POWER PACK--YOU SMASHED IT!

BUT WITHOUT THAT PACK, THE CUTTER'S USELESS!

HEY!



SCORE ONE FOR GOLIATH.

AT LEAST THIS DAY HASN'T TURNED OUT TO BE A TOTAL LOSS.

MEMORIES NOW, ONLY A FEW HOURS GONE--YOU'D JUST COME OFF AN ALL NIGHT WORK SESSION UP AT THE SAVARRO CANYON TEST SITE. HOURS OF EFFORT, GLITCHES, MORE HOURS, MORE GLITCHES...



...IT HADN'T BEEN A GOOD NIGHT.

AND THE MORNING WAS GOING DOWNHILL FAST.

OKAY, TROOPS, WHAT'S THE PANIC?

AND, BELIEVE ME, IT'D BETTER BE GOOD.



OH, IT'S GOOD, BOSS. GRADE A PRIME.

TONY STARK'S ON THE SCRAMBLED LINE FROM NEW YORK, Madder'n stirred-up hornets an' yellin' for you!

THEN I'D BEST NOT KEEP THE GREAT MAN WAITING. I'LL TAKE HIS CALL IN MY OFFICE.

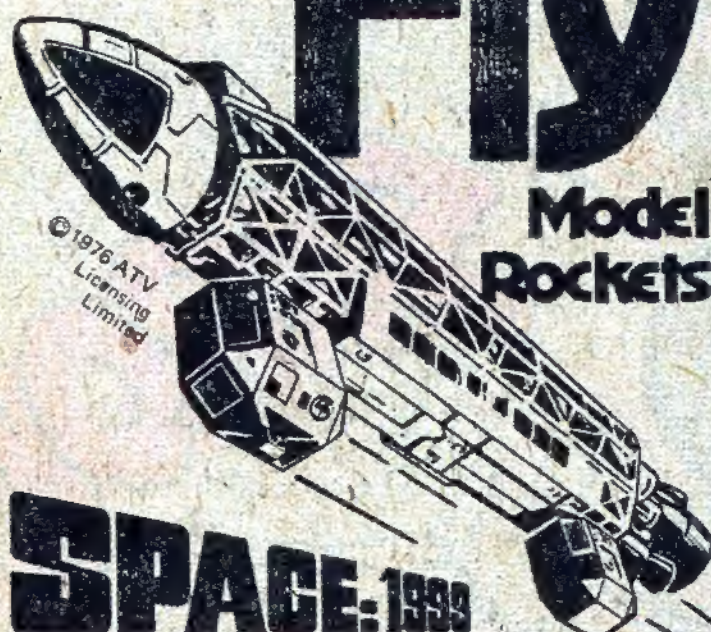
WONDER WHAT HE WANTS...EVERYTHING'S BEEN PRETTY QUIET AROUND HERE SINCE VULCAN'S RAID...*



...AND WE'RE NOT ALL THAT MUCH OVER OUR BUDGET. I HOPE.

*LAST ISH. --MARV.

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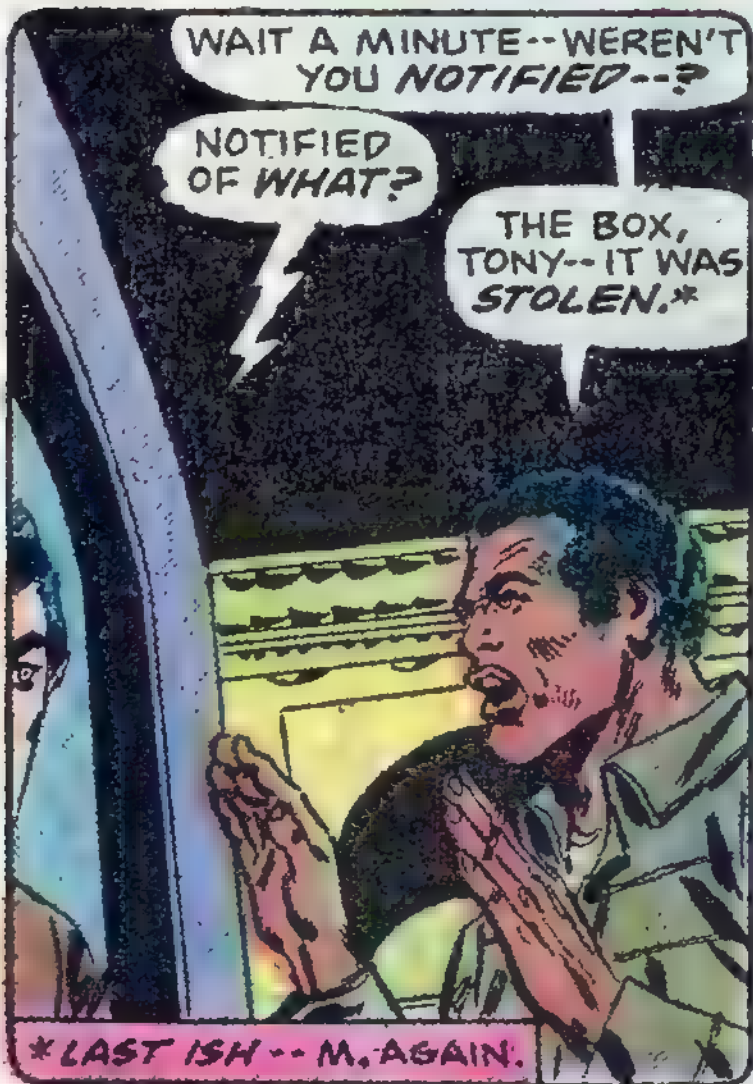
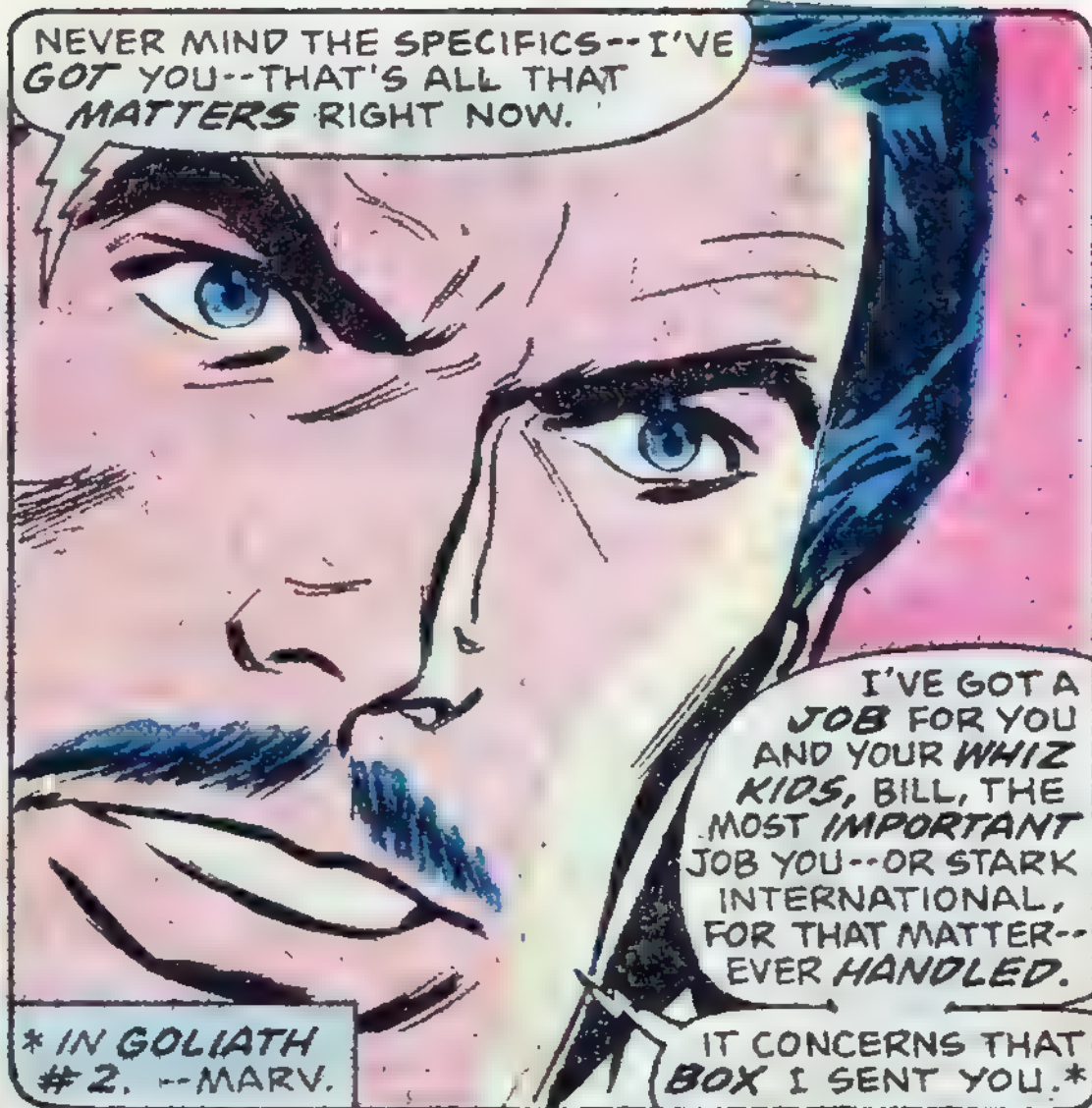
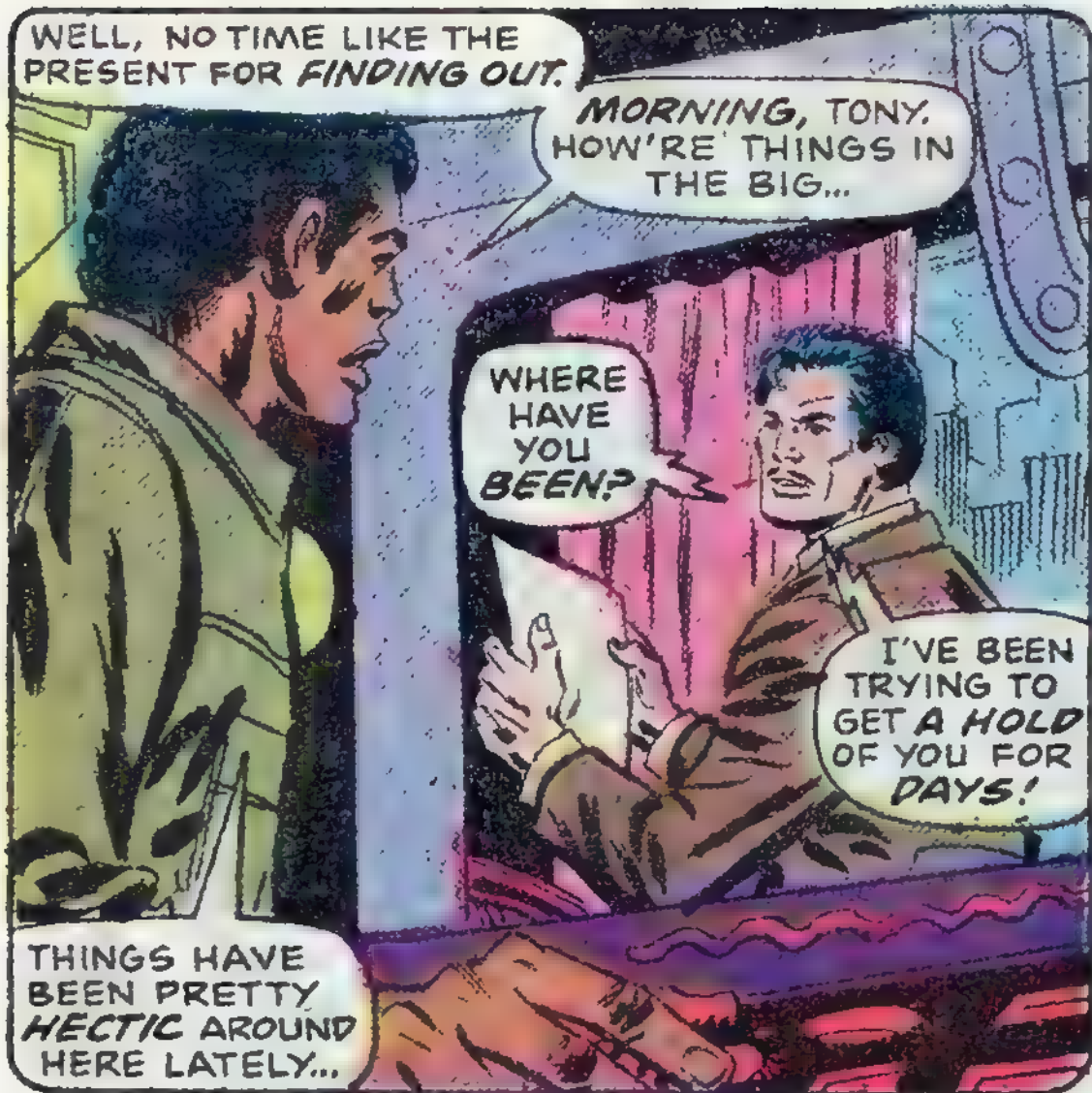
LOOK
SPIDERMAN
My ring actually
changes colors!

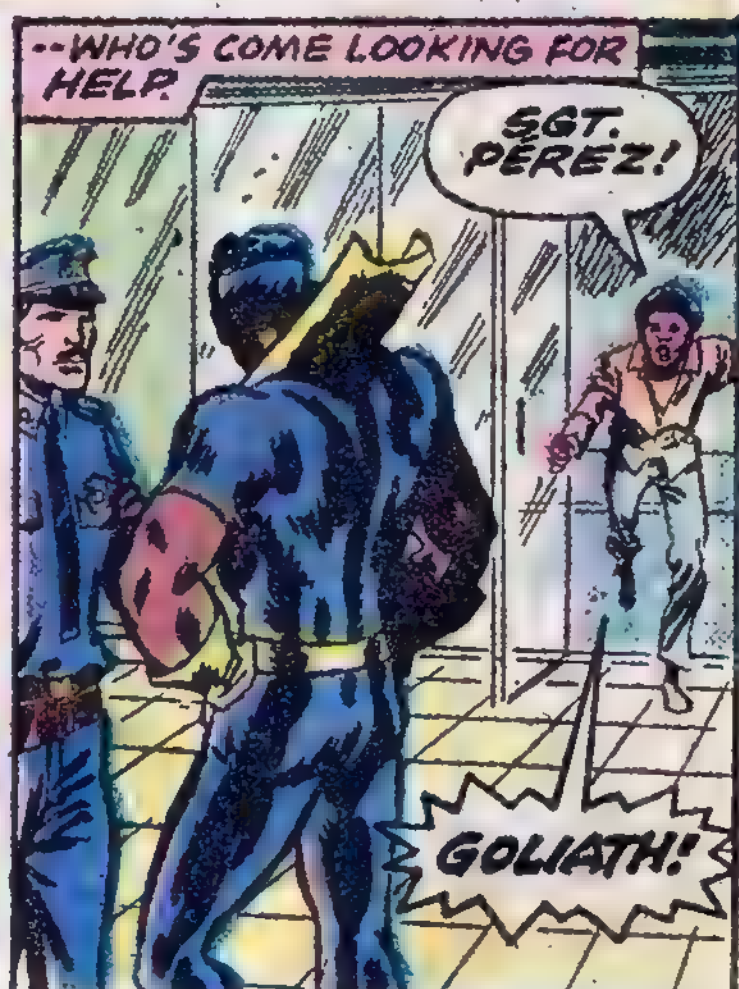
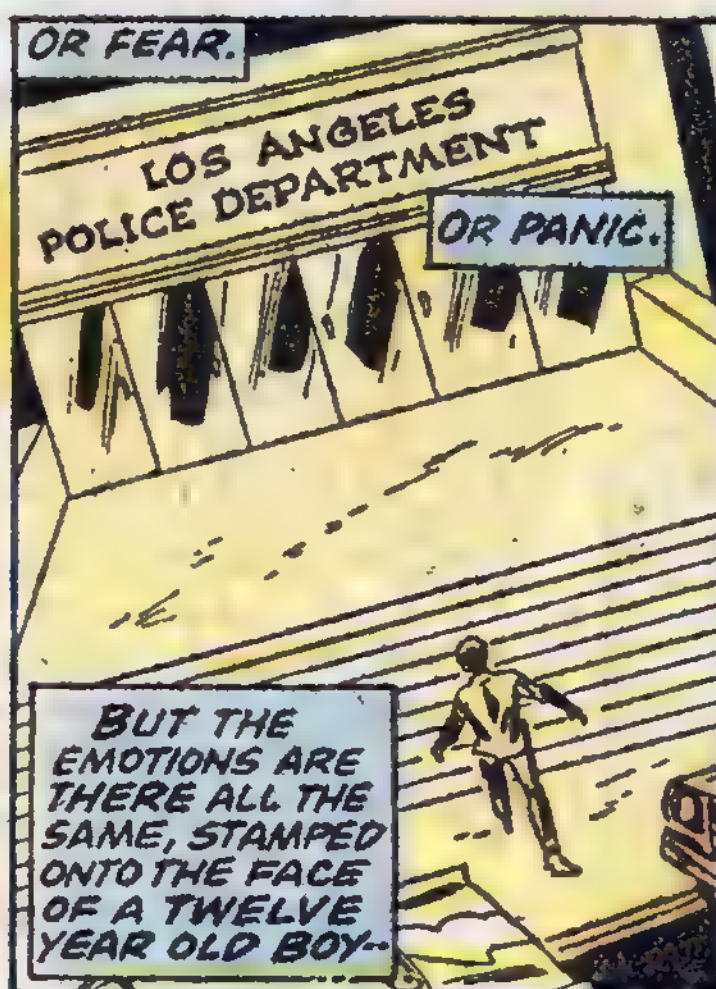
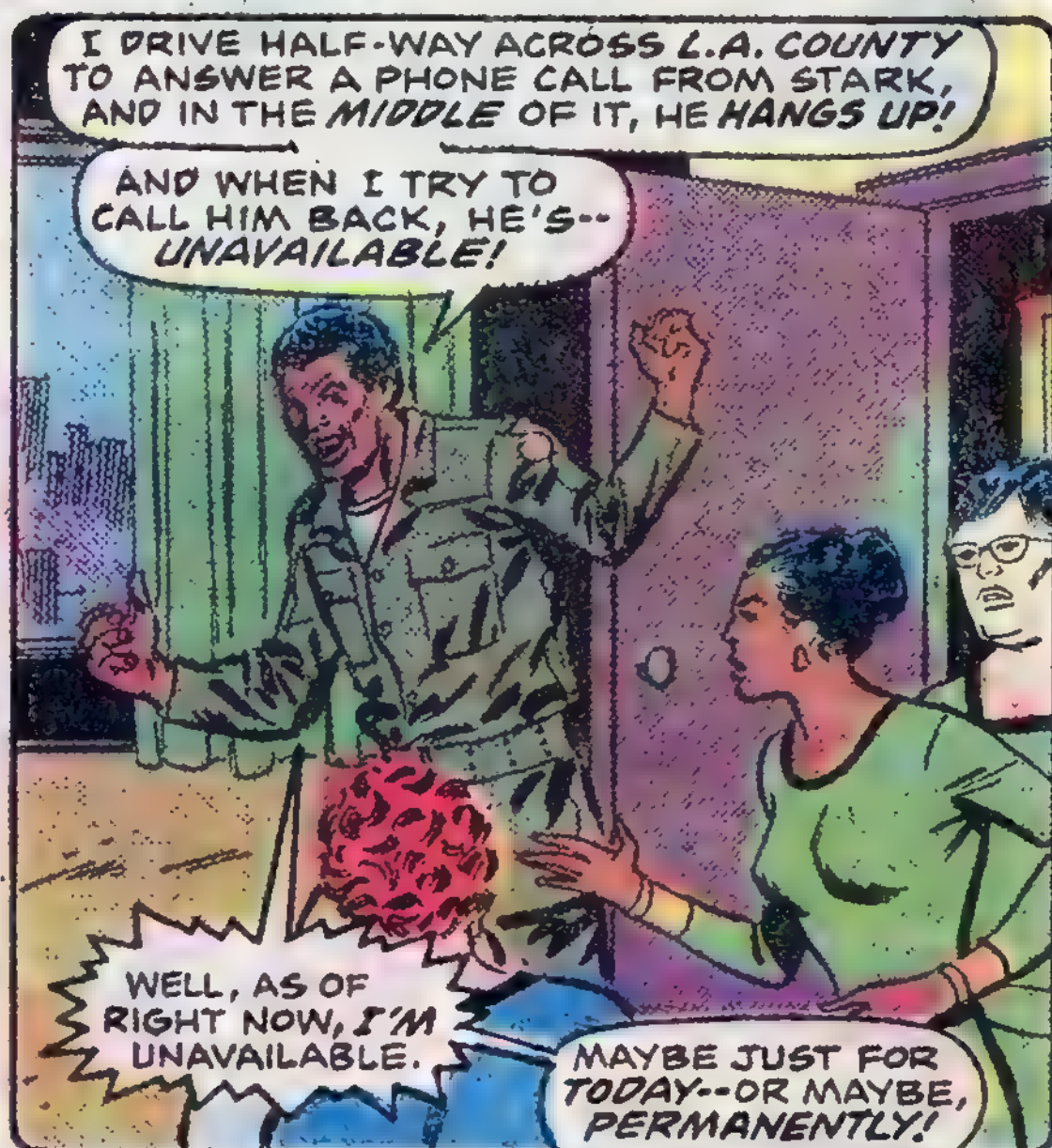
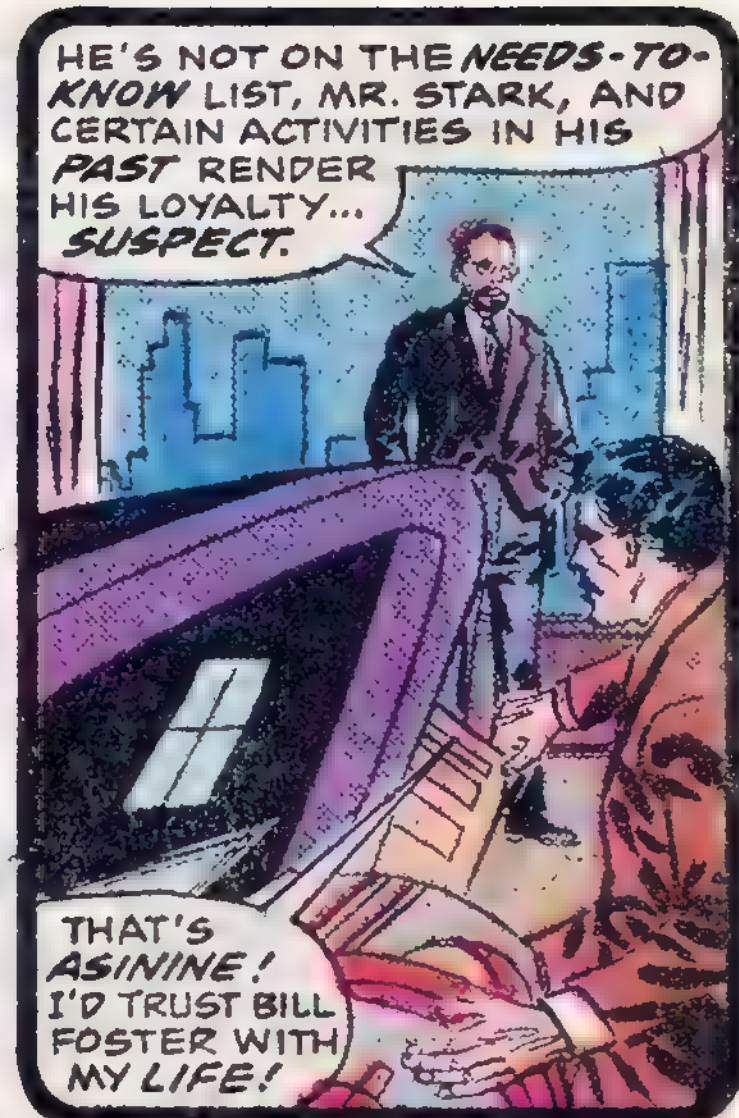


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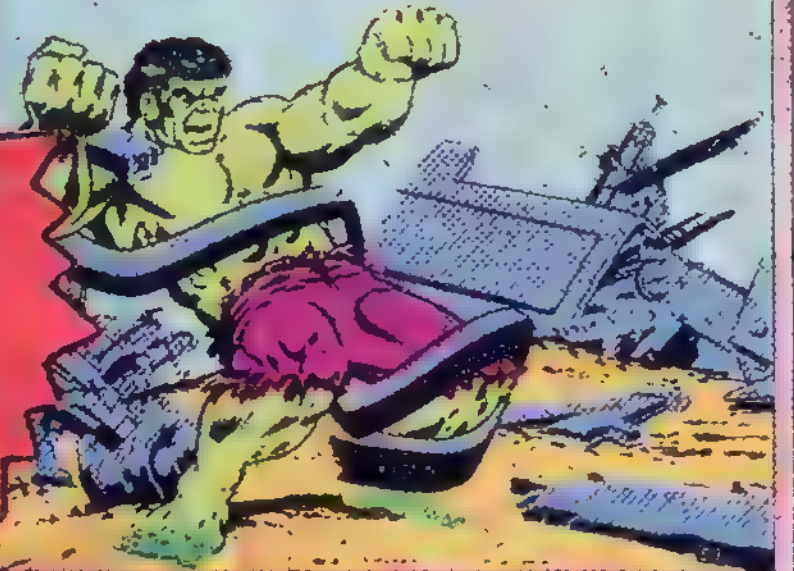
NOT SO SPECIAL!

1

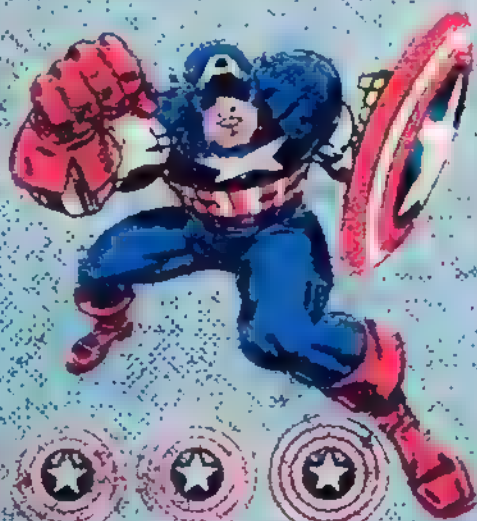
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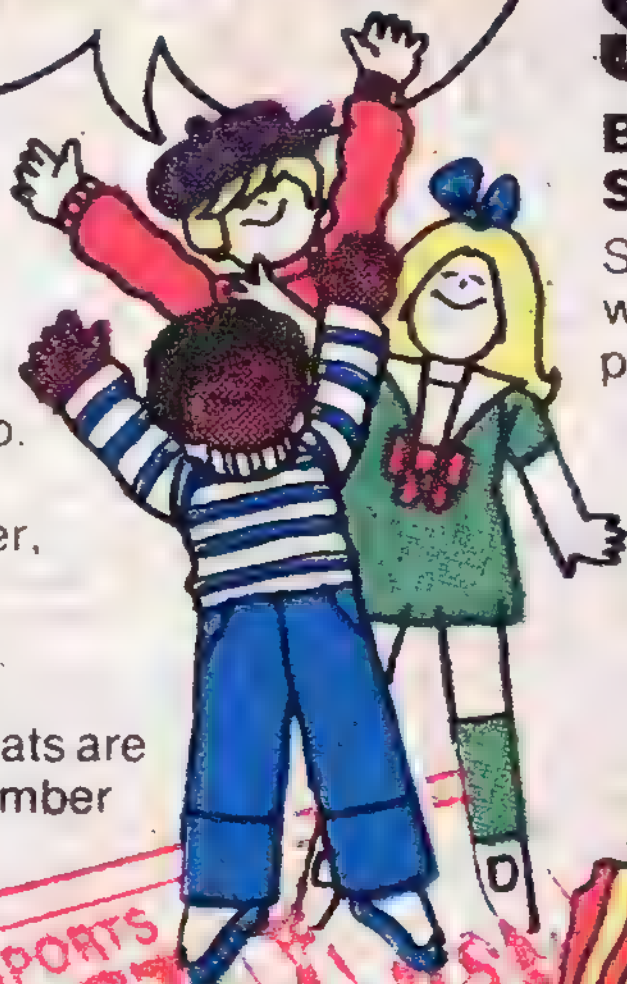
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YOU SEE, GOLIATH, YOUR REPUTATION IS SPREADING.

WHAT'S THE TROUBLE, KEITH?

THE BANK--MY AUNT SENT ME, TOL' ME TO FIND YOU AN' GOLIATH!

SGT. PÉREZ--OUR BANK'S BEIN' ROBBED!

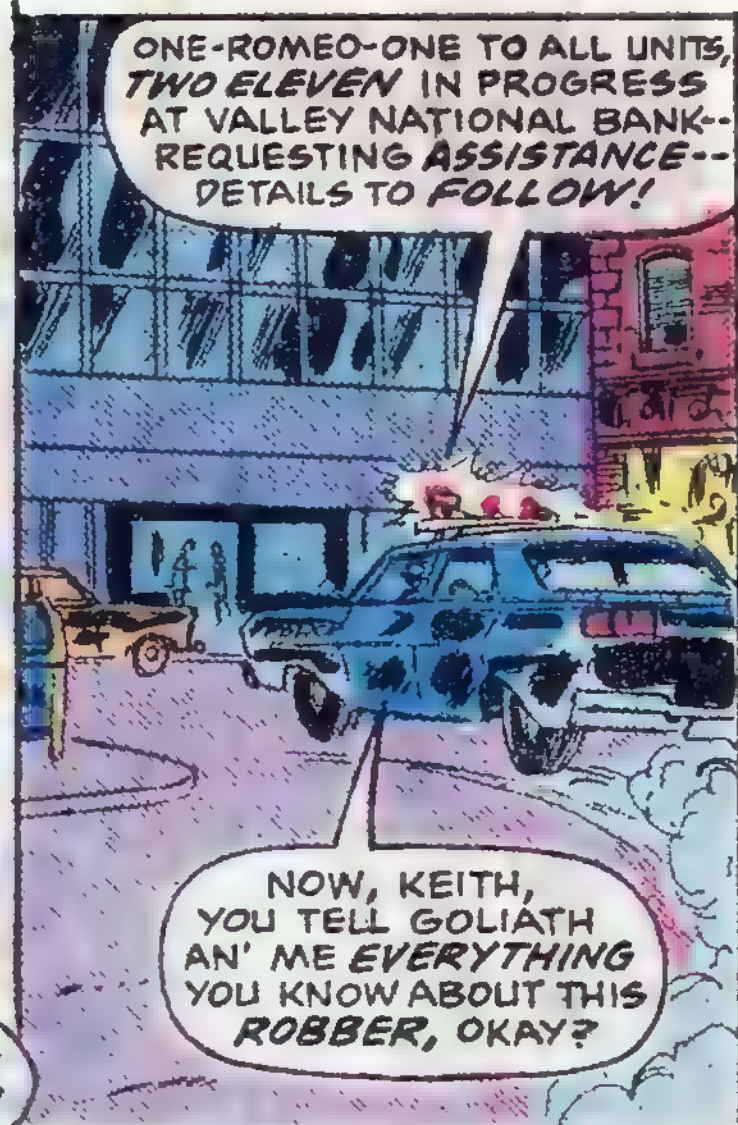


BY HOW MANY MEN, KEITH?

ONLY ONE-- BUT MY AUNT SAYS THE POLICE'LL NEED YOU TO STOP HIM!

AND I THOUGHT THIS WAS GOING TO BE A QUIET SHIFT...

C'MON, KEITH--YOU TOO, GOLIATH--LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!



ONE-RO-MEO-ONE TO ALL UNITS, TWO ELEVEN IN PROGRESS AT VALLEY NATIONAL BANK-- REQUESTING ASSISTANCE-- DETAILS TO FOLLOW!

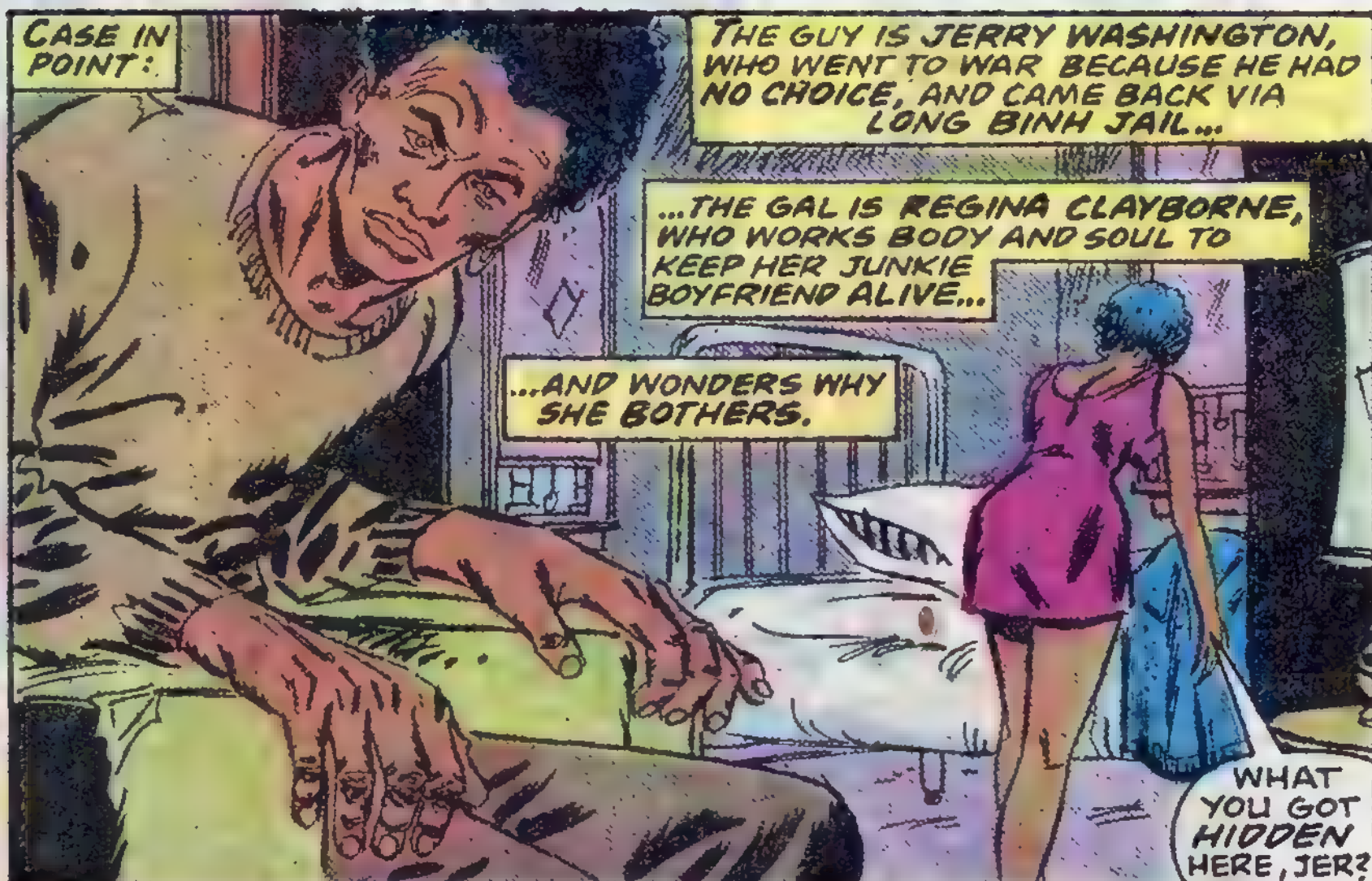
NOW, KEITH, YOU TELL GOLIATH AN' ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS ROBBER, OKAY?



THREE MILLION PEOPLE, WE SAID, SOME WORKING --LIKE SGT. JULIO PÉREZ, L.A.P.D.-- SOME NOT.

SOME OF 'EM DOIN' ALL RIGHT FOR THEMSELVES...

...AN' SOME OF 'EM BARELY HANGIN' ON...



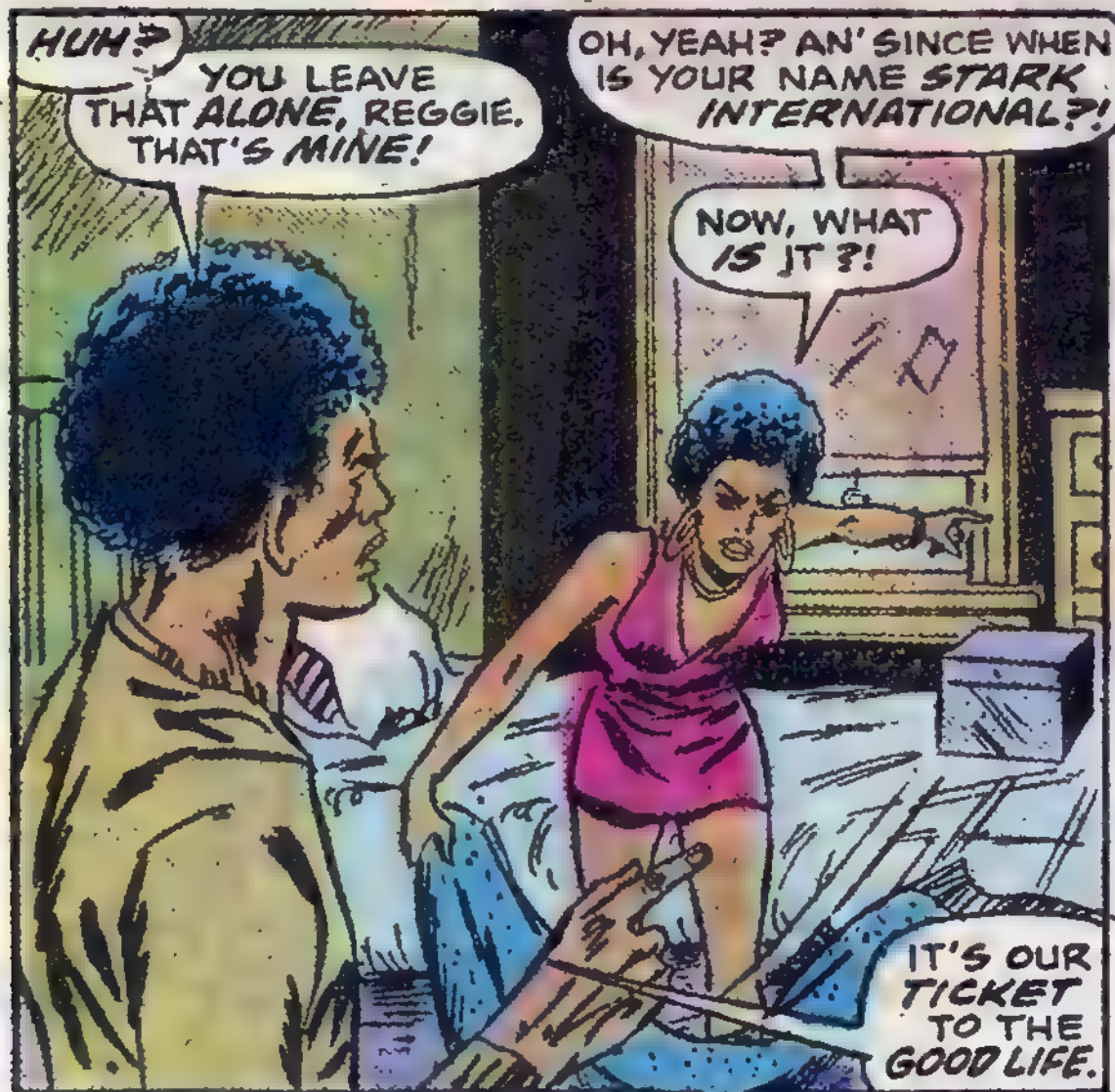
CASE IN POINT:

THE GUY IS JERRY WASHINGTON, WHO WENT TO WAR BECAUSE HE HAD NO CHOICE, AND CAME BACK VIA LONG BINH JAIL...

...THE GAL IS REGINA CLAYBORNE, WHO WORKS BODY AND SOUL TO KEEP HER JUNKIE BOYFRIEND ALIVE...

...AND WONDERS WHY SHE BOTHERS.

WHAT YOU GOT HIDDEN HERE, JER?



HUH?

YOU LEAVE THAT ALONE, REGGIE. THAT'S MINE!

OH, YEAH? AN' SINCE WHEN IS YOUR NAME STARK INTERNATIONAL?!

NOW, WHAT IS IT?!

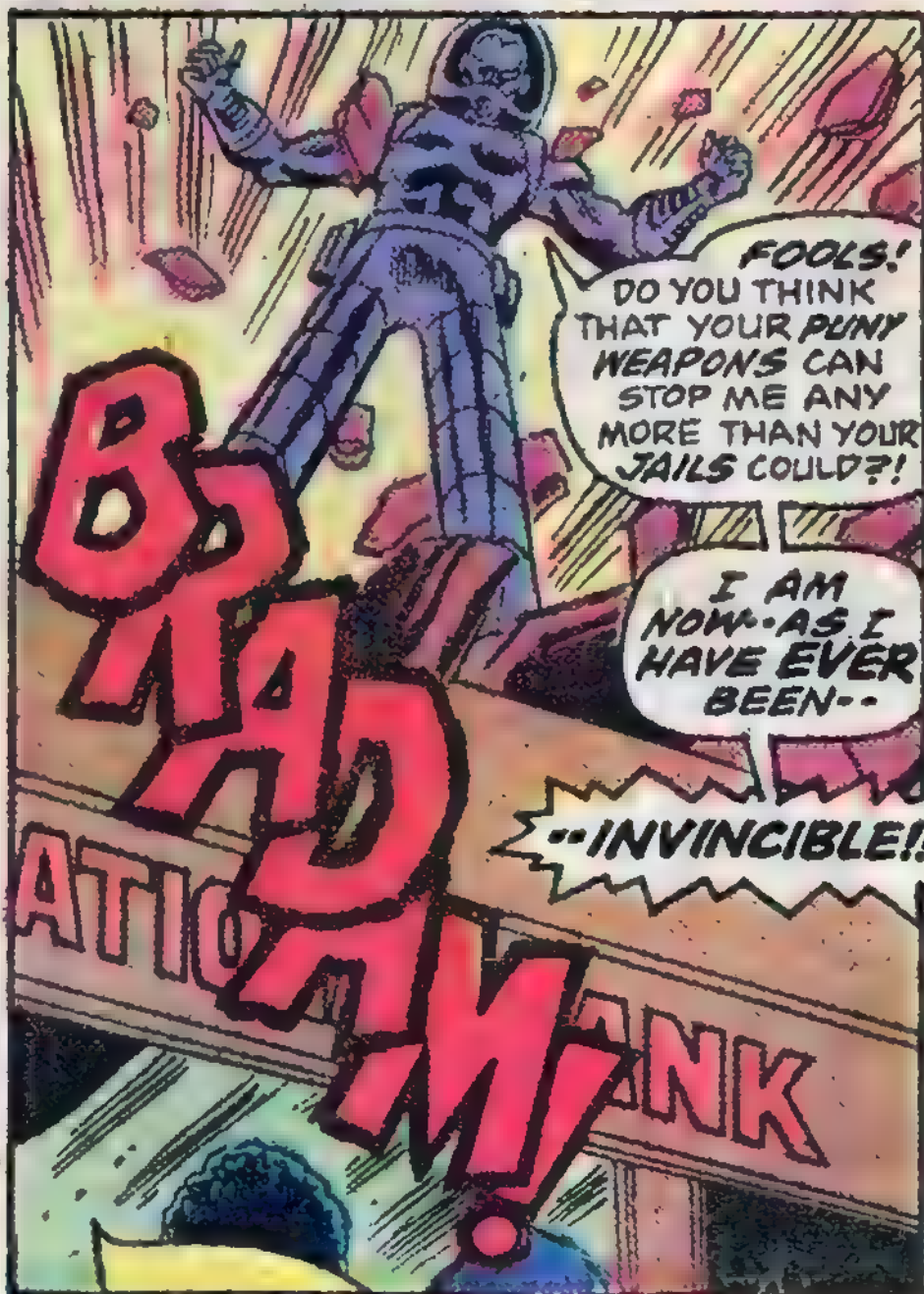
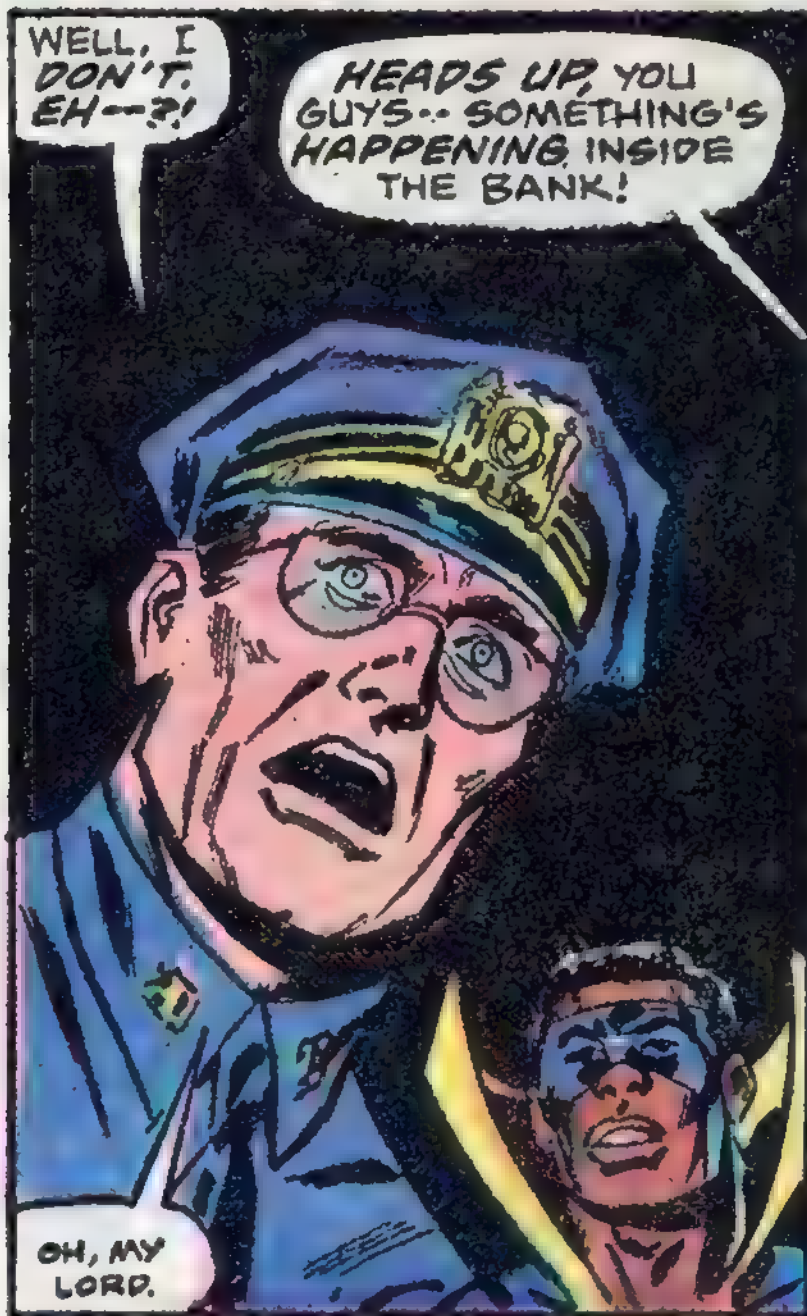
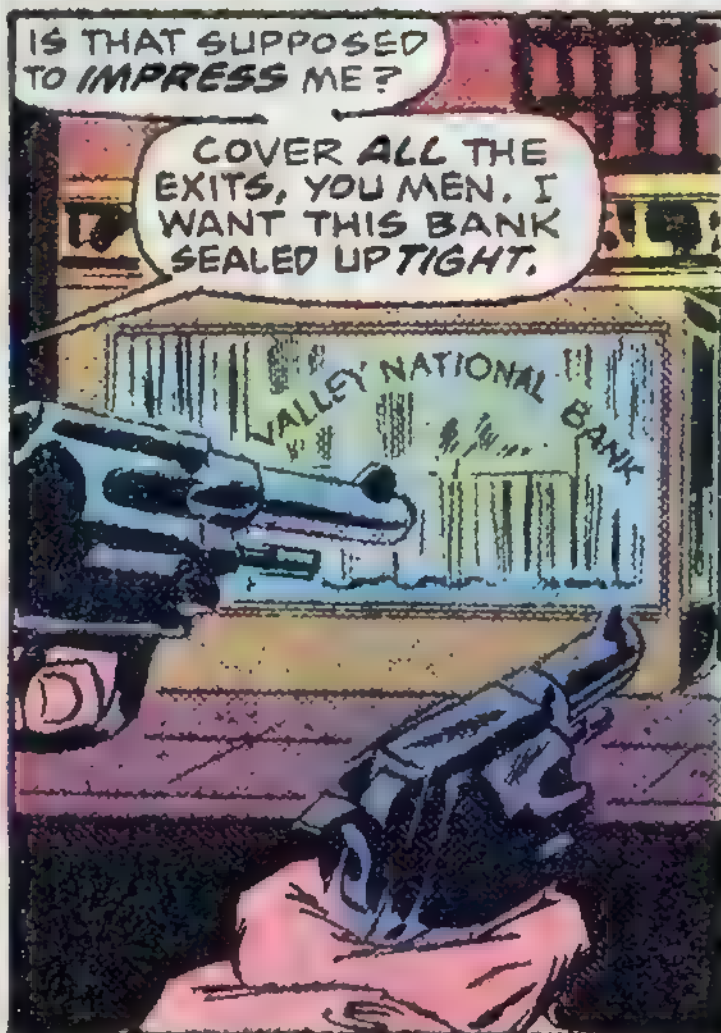
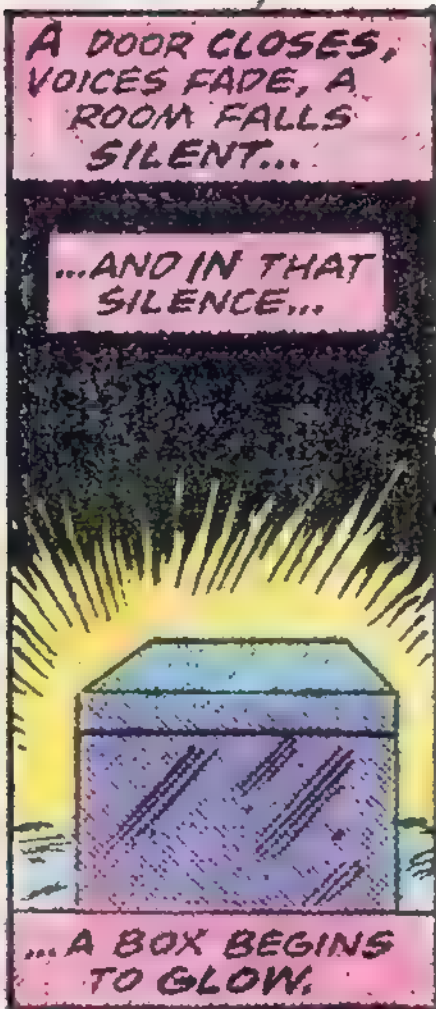
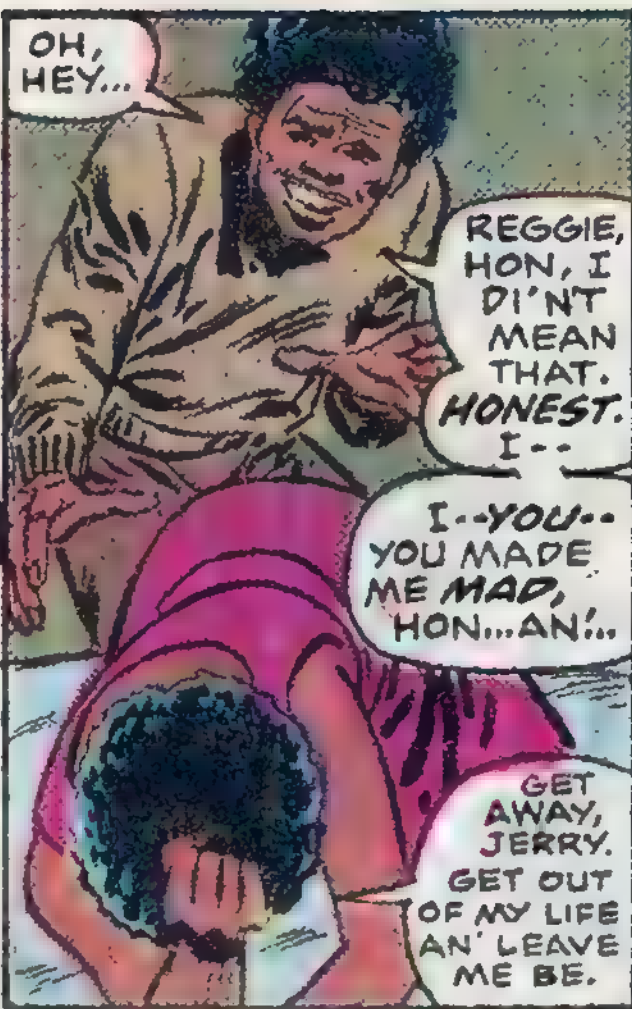
IT'S OUR TICKET TO THE GOOD LIFE.



OUR WHAT?! THAT'S A ONE WAY TICKET TO SAN QUENTIN, YOU STUPID--!

WHAT WERE YOU FIXIN' TO DO WITH IT, MR. MASTER SPY?--SELL IT TO THE RUSSIANS?

YOU SHUT YOUR MOUTH, WOMAN--DON'T YOU MAKE FUN O' ME, YOU HEAR?



I HATE TO DISILLUSION YOU, BUSTER--BUT AS OF RIGHT NOW, YOUR ONE-MAN CRIME WAVE IS THROUGH--

--COURTESY OF **BLACK GOLIATH!**

CRETIN, YOU DARE SPEAK SO TO YOUR BETTER?

I AM NO CHEAP CROOK TO BE COWED BY MERE WORDS, GOLIATH--AND YOUR SIZE MEANS NOTHING TO ME AND MY ARMORED EXO-SKELETON!

STRANGE. THAT COP, ADAMS, HAD GIVEN HIM HIM AN OUT, TOLD HIM TO GET LOST--AND YET, THE MOMENT THAT THE THREAT HAD MADE ITSELF KNOWN, GOLIATH CHARGED INTO ACTION.

HE HADN'T THOUGHT, HE'D JUST ACTED--HE HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO HELP HIMSELF (AND WOULDN'T IVAN PETROVITCH PAVLOV HAVE BEEN PROUD OF THAT?).

ONE COSTUMED VILLAIN YELLS A CHALLENGE (THAT WAS ALL IT TOOK) AND BILL FOSTER WAS NO MORE--THERE WAS ONLY A HERO...

...ONLY GOLIATH.

FOR I AM THE **STILT-MAN--**

--AND I WILL NEVER BE DEFEATED AGAIN!

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48-3

GREETINGS TO GOLIATH

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Chris, George, Vinnie, and Company,

Let me start by saying that I have been very impressed by these first two issues of BLACK GOLIATH. This is definitely going to be one of my favorites. I'm glad that one of the new series coming out of the Bullpen is a traditional superhero in the tradition of Captain America, Daredevil, and Spider-Man, instead of a cosmic/mystery/monster/science fiction type. The latter are alright, but you can get tired if you get too many of them at one time. Black Goliath is a colorful character, an exciting character, and he shows great potential.

I'm glad to see that there will be some characters operating on the West Coast. It gets ridiculous to always place your world-menacing evils in New York City. Of course, it will take some work to get a credible team-up going with Black Goliath, but I'm sure you can do it.

The art leaves absolutely nothing to be desired. Very nice cover on this issue. And while I don't usually mention the coloring, it was so great this issue, that I just have to!

I'm pleased with the characterization and introduction of your supporting characters. Celia Jackson is definitely worth keeping around, and I'm sure Black Goliath won't argue with that. I'm also impressed with the extra characterization given to the Whiz Kids in this issue. That Talia Kruma is a mystery, isn't she? I'm betting her secret past plays a big part in the future.

Seeing as how I like the espionage/conspiracy/crime empire type of story, I'm glad to see that Atom-Smasher was just part of a larger, more mysterious plot. Judging by the rings on his fingers, is the big boss-type in panel 4 on the last page an American version of the late Mandarin?

Keep doing what you're doing, 'cause you're doing it good!

Larry Twiss
227 Fox Run

King of Prussia, PA 19406

Right off the bat, Larry, we're glad you're impressed by Goliath—and we hope you stay that way over the issues to come. Our only regret is that space (rather, lack of same) has forced us to trim your interesting and well-thought letter to fit the lettercol. So let's quit babbling and get down to cases before half of this answer gets blue-pencilled itself!

George and Vinnie thank you for your kudos; the only trouble is that they are no longer doing the art chores for the tall one, having been shifted over to IRON MAN for the duration. After this issue's fill-in by Rich Buckler, the art for GOLIATH will be taken over by Klobberin' Keith Pollard. Keith's done a fair amount of work for us in the past—most notably in the MASTER OF KUNG FU ANNUAL—and we think you'll be pleased by what he does here.

As for characters, Celia will definitely stick around, as will the Whiz Kids and a number of other supporting players—some of whom you met this issue, some of whom you'll be meeting in the issues to come. Concerning the villains: all we can say is wait and see. And bear in mind, true believer, that things are rarely what they seem.

Dear Marvel,

I must say that BLACK GOLIATH truly has great potential. First of all, when a hero is soloing, you know you've got a super-fine issue with George Tuska at the pencils. And Chris Claremont's plots make the whole comic very refreshing and entertaining.

The Whiz Kids are certainly a strange group. They subtly remind me of Doc Savage's Amazing Five. Their unique personalities neatly complement the hero.

As for Black Goliath himself, I like the idea of him being a novice super-doer. It appears that Bill Foster has really started off big.

Michael Biegel

6 Valley Lane

Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

Goliath resembling Doc Savage?! (Let's see—"Have no fear, Go-li-ath is here!"—hey, the song fits!) We don't see where not one, but a number of our readers got that impression. Just because Bill Foster owns an antique 1936 roadster (Oh! Didn't Chris establish that yet? *Oops !!*), has an inordinate fondness for John Phillip Sousa marches (Not that either? Oh-oh.), and wears this belt buckle on which is engraved the image of Black. . .well, you get the picture. Does he *really* resemble the Man of Bronze, for goodness sakes? He doesn't even *live* in a skyscraper, much less own one.

But we will admit that—based on the first few issues—Foster/Goliath does have this certain way about him that seems to inspire women to go crazy. Only time will tell where that talent will lead our hero.

Dear Marv, Chris, George, and Vince,

I'm afraid, after reading the second issue of BLACK GOLIATH, that I've found no opportunity to state any feelings of compliment or criticism. The whole thing, I felt, was just another example of general mind-numbing pap that rather dominates the comics field with few exceptions (most of them, you'll be happy to hear, at Marvel); leaving nothing but a sort of dazed mediocrity in the mind.

Contrary to my own feelings, however, was the elation of a good friend of mine...a Mr. I. M. Bigg, himself a giant from the circus town of Peru. He stands about 9 feet high, and after reading your magazine said he thought it was the best comic he'd ever read, which is high praise indeed.

(I know. But do you have any idea *how long* I've waited for the opportunity to use that line?)

Kim Metzger

115 North Elm St.

Columbia City, IN 46725

You'll pardon us, Kim, if our feelings tend to echo those of your friend, Mr. Bigg, rather than yours. GOLIATH may not be the best comic ever written—it may not even be close; that's the kind of value judgement each reader has to make for his/herself—but we think it worth producing. And we think that people will find it worth reading.

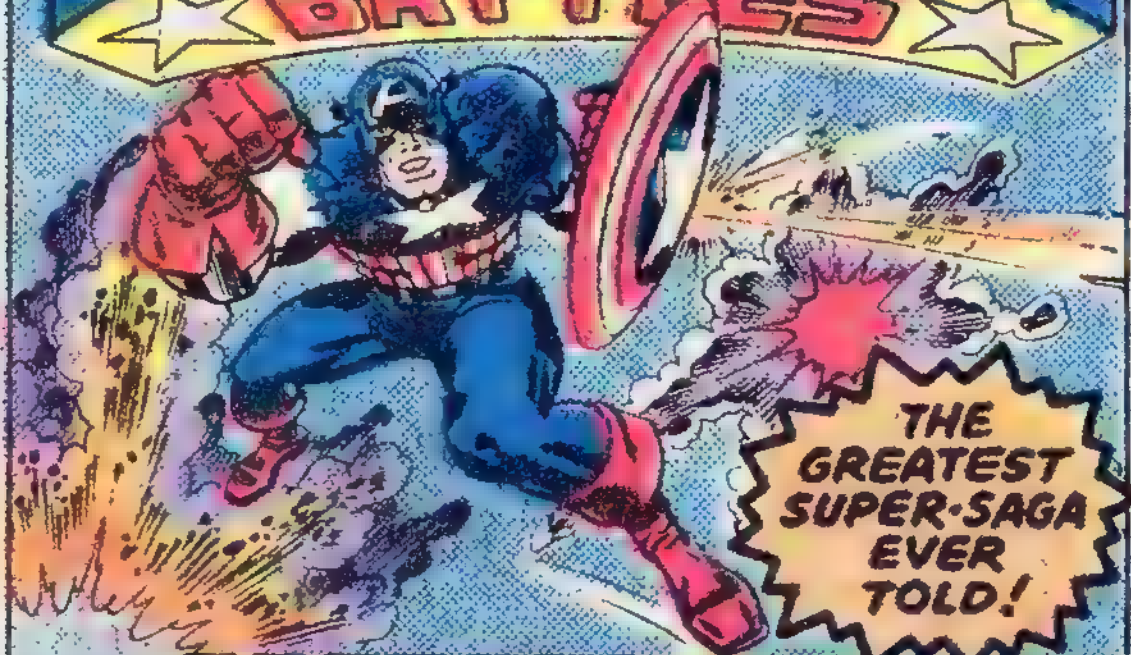
As with any new book, though, it takes time to settle in, to find a voice and point-of-view uniquely its own. Some books can do that from the first issue—SPIDER-MAN and CONAN, for example—others have to struggle a bit to get there. Sometimes they succeed and survive, sometimes they don't; all that we ask is that you give us a chance.

You say that the second issue was just another example of "Mind-numbing pap"; now, we could present a dozen explanations to show why it was or why it wasn't—each explanation totally valid—but that's flogging a dead horse. That issue didn't work for you. It did work for others. If your point-of-view prevails, then the book will die; if the pro-GOLIATH readers prevail—as we think they will—then the book will succeed and, we hope, get better with every issue. This is an on-going medium, Kim; we're all creative people here, and because we *are* creative people, none of us wants to stand still or produce something with our names on it that's mediocre.

Who knows, we may surprise you—we sure as blazes surprise ourselves a lot of the time.

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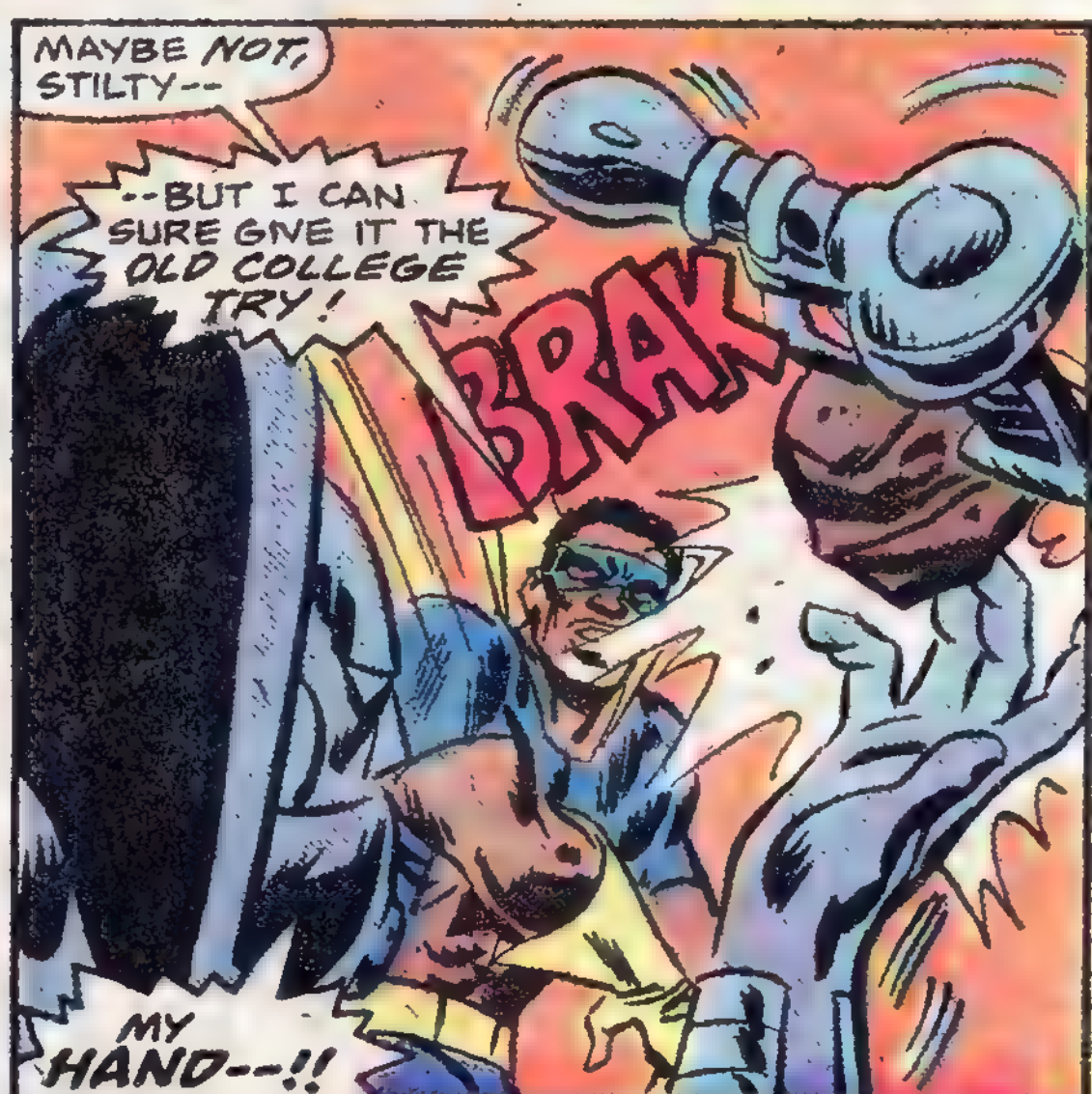
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ALL RIGHT, MEN--STILT-MAN'S
DISTRACTED, WEAPONLESS--NOW'S
THE TIME TO LET HIM HAVE IT!

BUT WHAT
ABOUT
GOLIATH?
HE'S IN OUR
LINE OF
FIRE!

TOO BAD, PÉREZ--
HE'LL JUST HAVE TO
TAKE HIS CHANCES!

WATCH YOURSELF, YOU
OVERSIZED FOOL--

--WITH FRIENDS
LIKE THOSE POLICE-
MEN, YOU HAVE NO NEED
OF ENEMIES.

HE'S RIGHT--
THESE BULLETS AREN'T
HURTING HIM A BIT
INSIDE THAT ARMOR!

WHOSE SIDE
IS ADAMS ON,
ANYWAY?!

THANKS FOR THE
ADVICE, STILTY--

--I GUESS OUR
ONLY SOLUTION IS
TO TAKE OUR FIGHT
OUT OF THE KILL
ZONE.

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?! WE'RE
FALLING TOWARDS
THE BANK!

NO KIDDING!

I THOUGHT YOU
WERE THE GUY
WHO WAS NEVER
GOING TO FALL
AGAIN?

CRASH!

NICE IDEA, FOSTER--WHATEVER
IT WAS. TOO BAD THE DARNED
THING DIDN'T WORK.

STILTY'S ALREADY ON
HIS FEET WHILE YOU'RE
STILL RECOVERING FROM
THE IMPACT.

GOLIATH!

SO MOVE
IT, MAN--
YOU'RE WIDE
OPEN!

GOLIATH, IT'S
ME-- CELIA
JACKSON!

NO USE, HE DOESN'T
HEAR ME--OH, LORD,
NO!

STILT-MAN'S
THROWING GAS
BOMBS. CAN'T
SEE...

PHLOM!

...GETTING...
HARD TO
BREATHE...

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EXCELLENT. MY CONCENTRATED
TEAR GAS HAS ROUTED
BOTH THE BANK PERSONNEL
AND THE POLICE...

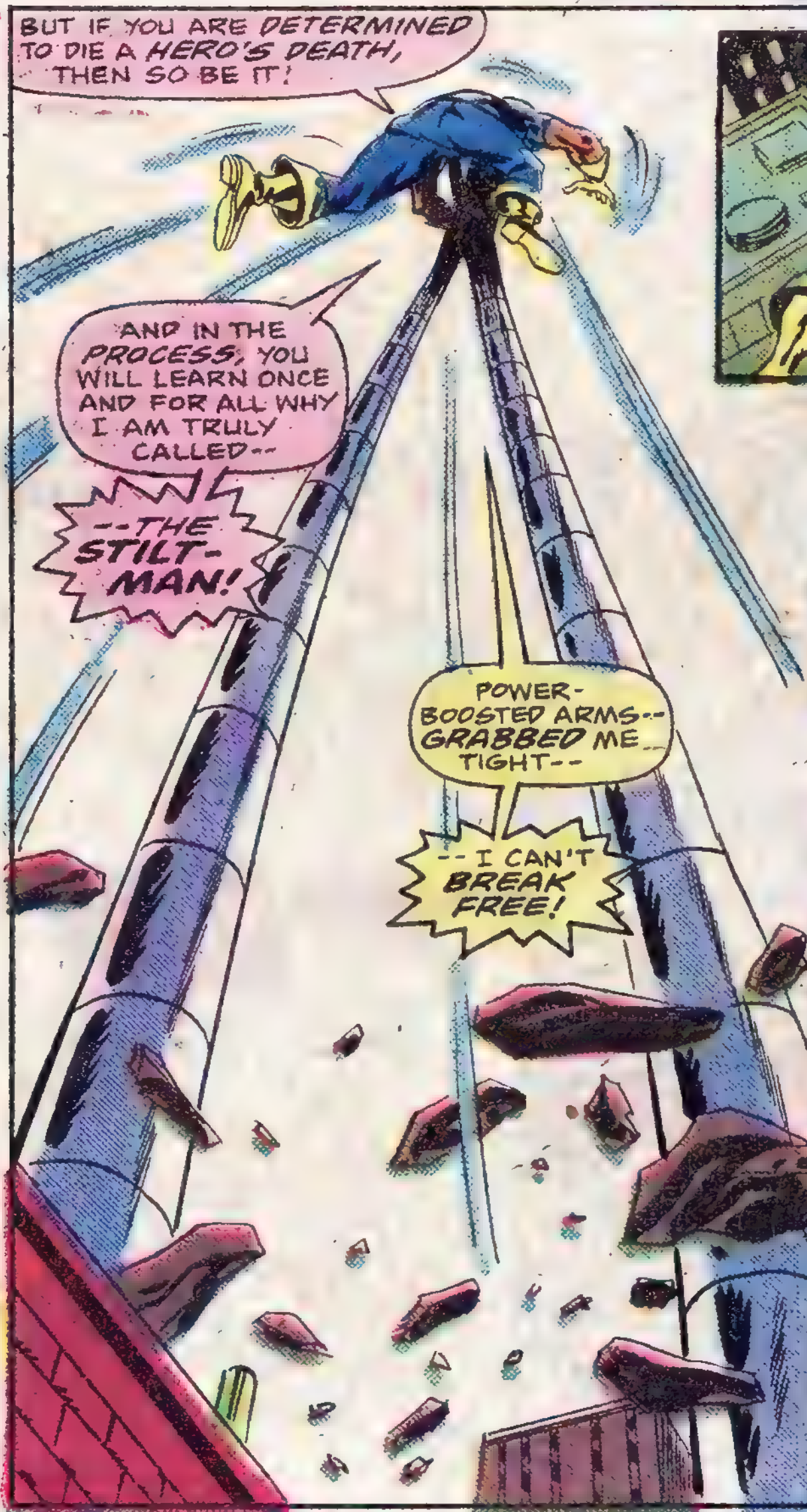
...LEAVING ME
MORE THAN ENOUGH
TIME TO LOOT THE
VAULT AND BE ON MY
WAY, UNSCATHED.



GUESS AGAIN,
TIN-TOES!

GOLIATH!

I'D HAVE
THOUGHT YOU'D HAVE
LEARNED YOUR LESSON
BY NOW--AND SLUNK
BACK TO YOUR KENNEL
IN ABJECT DEFEAT!



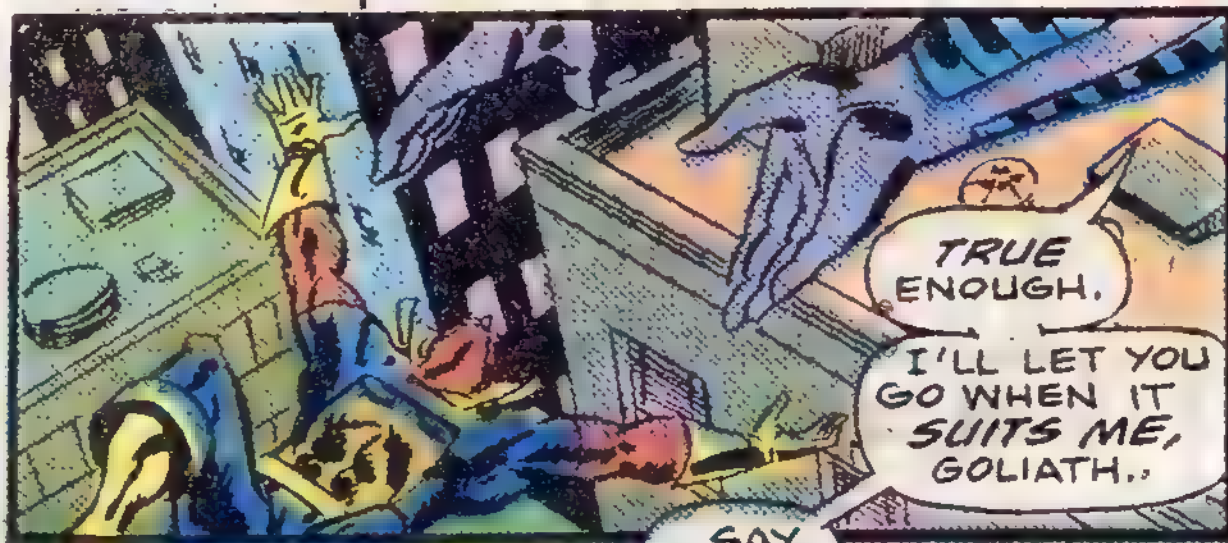
BUT IF YOU ARE DETERMINED
TO DIE A HERO'S DEATH,
THEN SO BE IT!

AND IN THE
PROCESS, YOU
WILL LEARN ONCE
AND FOR ALL WHY
I AM TRULY
CALLED--

--THE
STILT-
MAN!

POWER-
BOOSTED ARMS--
GRABBED ME
TIGHT--

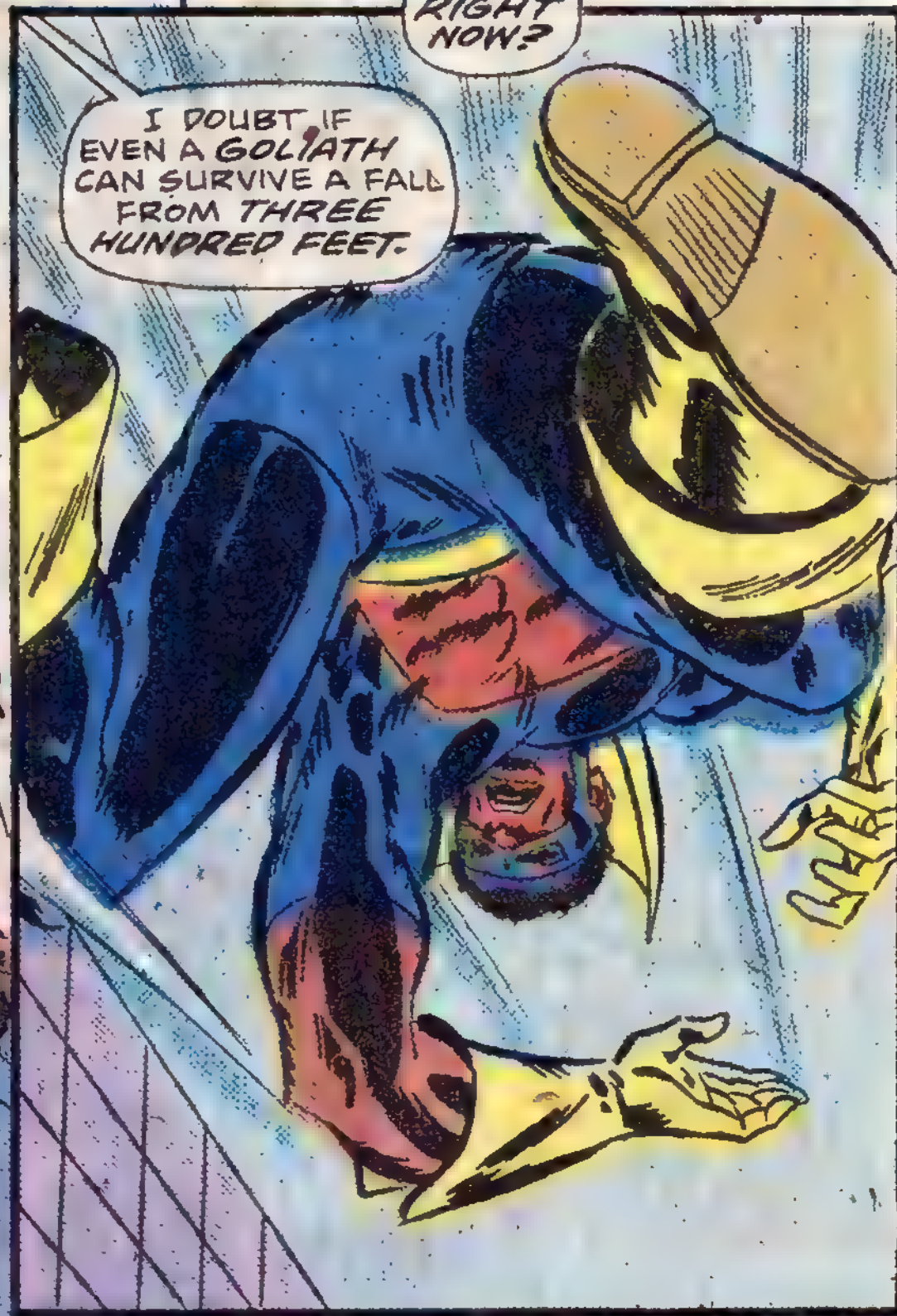
--I CAN'T
BREAK
FREE!



TRUE
ENOUGH.

I'LL LET YOU
GO WHEN IT
SUITS ME,
GOLIATH..

...SAY,
RIGHT
NOW?



I DOUBT IF
EVEN A GOLIATH
CAN SURVIVE A FALL
FROM THREE
HUNDRED FEET.

FIVE SECONDS TO IMPACT.

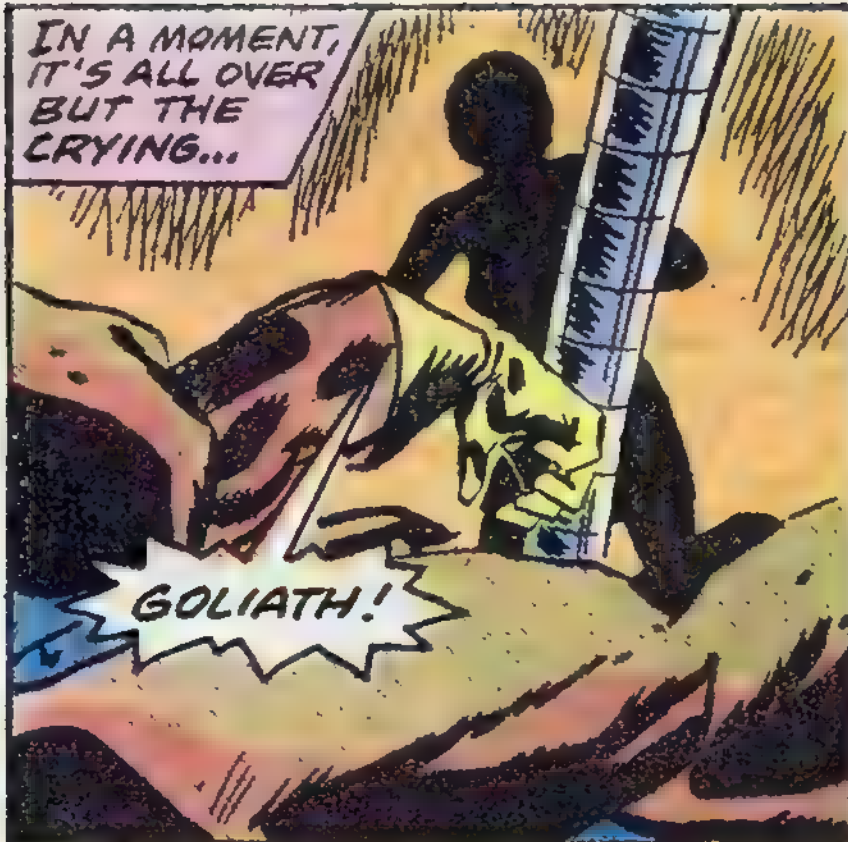
NO TIME AT ALL, AND YET,
AN INFINITY...



ONLY ONE CHANCE...
AND A THIN ONE AT THAT--
BUT, LIKE THE MAN SAYS,
WHEN IT'S THE ONLY
GAME IN TOWN...

GOT TO
ANGLE MY
BODY...

IN A MOMENT,
IT'S ALL OVER
BUT THE
CRYING...



GOLIATH!

...AS THE SHOCK OF IMPACT GIVES
WAY TO THE SUSURRUS OF COL-
LAPSING MASONRY, AND NOTHING
MOVES.

THANK YOU, MY DEAR.
I WAS IN NEED OF A
HOSTAGE.



IT WAS KIND
OF YOU TO
VOLUNTEER.

I COULD
CRUSH YOU ALL
LIKE INSECTS, BUT
I CHOOSE TO BE
MERCIFUL.

HEAR ME--
HEAR THE VOICE OF
THE NEW CRIME LORD
OF LOS ANGELES!



BUT I
WARN
YOU
ALL--

-- SHOULD
ONE OF YOU
ATTEMPT TO
STOP MY
ESCAPE, THIS
WOMAN WILL
DIE!

CRIME LORD OF
L.A.--THAT'S A
JOKE--HUH?!



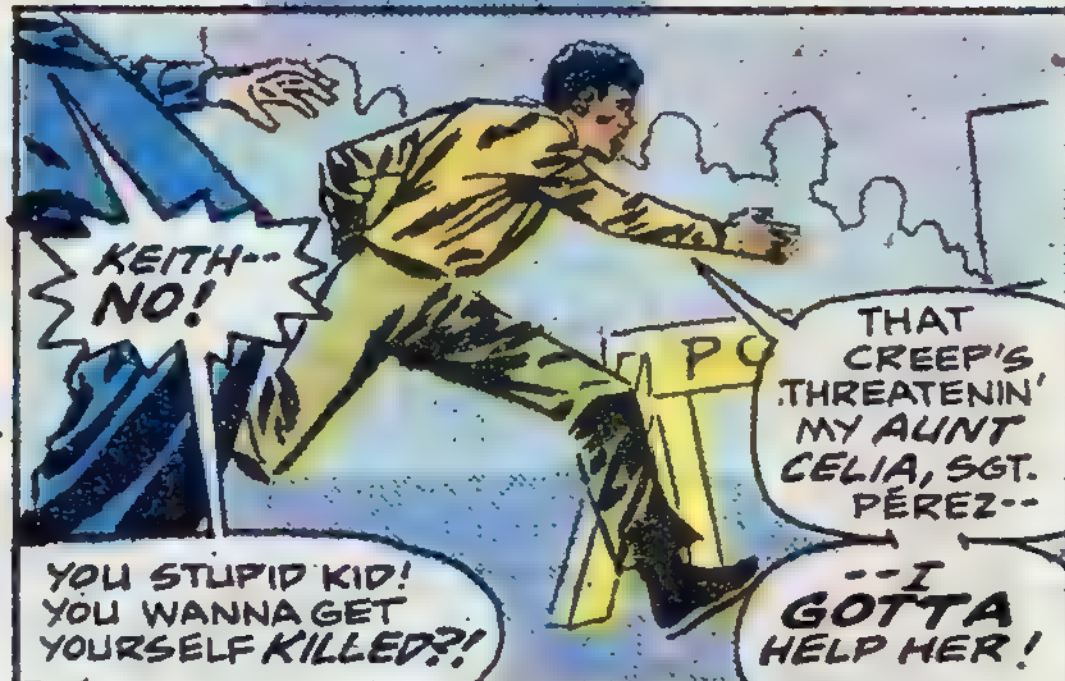
JULIO--
HE'S GOT
CELIA!

KEITH--
NO!

YOU STUPID KID!
YOU WANNA GET
YOURSELF KILLED?!

THAT
CREEP'S
THREATENIN'
MY AUNT
CELIA, SGT.
PÉREZ--

--I
GOTTA
HELP HER!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



WHO'RE YOU
KIDDING,
FOSTER?

YOU HAVEN'T
GOT A
PRAYER.

CEIL--!!

BARAKAM

A PULSE-POUNDING PALIMPSEST OF PAJANDRUMS PURE, PALAVER PARADISIC, AND PAENS PANDEMIC!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hoo Boy! This'll be the shortest Soapbox on record! Yours truly just caught the flu! So between sneezes and fever chills, there's just time to finally tell you the name of the third ORIGINS book coming your way this Fall. First there was ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS, then SON OF ORIGINS (both still on sale, of course, and doing better than ever), and now—the big news. No, it won't be called MOTHER-IN-LAW OF ORIGINS as so many of you predicted—though that might have been a zingy name, too—but, since it deals with the origins of the Marvel villains, we decided to title it—are you ready for this?—BRING ON THE BAD GUYS! I'll give you the line-up in an issue or two, soon as I stop sneezing. Oh, and thanks to Jaunty Johnny Conlin for arranging those two great lectures for me at Philadelphia Community College and Burlington County College. Two in one day was really a kick. John Boy. Finally, don't miss the big news next ish about Gerry Conway and Marv Wolfman! No, they didn't defect to the CIA! That's it, gang. And remember—let's be good to each other—we may not be much, but we're the only human race we've got! Now open the aspirin bottle and warm up the tea, Joanie—I'm headin' for home in high gear!

Excelsior!



ITEM! This seems to be the month for Mighty Marvel Milestones, True Believer! Not only do the old X-Men do battle with the new X-Men in the panoramic panels of X-MEN #100—not only does the long-remembered Wonder Man return to the palpitating pages of AVENGERS #150—but the fate of the whole blamed nation depends on everyone's favorite red, white, and blue Avenger, Captain America—and his high-flying action partner, the Falcon—stopping the dreaded Madbomb from blowing everyone's mind to Kingdom Come and back, in the pages of Marvel's Bicentennial treat to you: CAPTAIN AMERICA #200. If you miss this triumvirate of titanic tales, you'll only have yourself to blame, and we don't wanna give you a guilt complex!

ITEM! Speaking of milestones, this month also sees the second sensational set of MARVEL CLASSICS on your newsstand shelves. The literary greats

of yore, and the artistic masters of Marvel, combine to bring you such all-time favorites as GULLIVER'S TRAVELS, BLACK BEAUTY, MOBY DICK, and the ever-popular TOM SAWYER. No, don't thank us. You know how embarrassed we get.

ITEM! And that's not all, Wild Ones! This month we also present the latest and greatest MARVEL TREASURY EDITION, featuring the God of Thunder himself. Yeah, that's right. Goldilocks and his Asgardian buddies battle the Mighty Mangog in a full-length blast from the past! And, if you want to see what maniacal Mangog's doing these days, pick up the current issues of the regular, all-new THOR! Both are treats to titillate the tastebuds of all True Believers. Thou shalt not miss this one!

ITEM! You've been asking for it! And never let it be said that we heed not thy requests! So, from now on, whenever you send for a subscription to any Mighty Marvel mag, your copies will be mailed to you flat—UNFOLDED! You'll find all the details in the subscription ad elsewhere in this issue. With this newest treat, there isn't a single reason not to get your Marvels by mail. Try it, and you'll be glad you did. Of course, your mailman might not be thrilled carrying about those thousands of extra subscription copies, but when he finds out they're Marvel mags, he'll be glad to do his bit to further the cultural revolution!

ITEM! With all the other specials winging your way this month, we don't want the following twin titles to be lost in the shuffle. This is the month we bring back an old friend, and try out a nutty new concept we think you'll really dig. So welcome back KULL THE DESTROYER, and say hello to THE MAN-BEAST CALLED... WOODGOD! Kull comes smashing your way from the combined talents of Rascally ROY THOMAS, Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH, Edwardian ED HANNIGAN and Smashin' STEVE GAN! And it features the wildest, weirdest sword-and-sorcery sensation this side of Cimmeria. WOODGOD, by Boisterous BILL MANTLO, KEITH GIFFIN and KLAUS JANSON, makes its appearance in MARVEL PREMIERE #31. He's a superhero, and not your garden-variety type, either. So take a peek at what may be the craziest character to come your way since that fateful day the gamma-irradiated Bruce Banner had his first transformation. While we're at it, let's give another plug to an upcoming mind-boggler from Marvel, namely the oft-mentioned new masterwork: The Man Called NOVA! It'll be hitting your newsstand this June, and we'll tell ya that everyone in the whole blamed

Bullpen is just wild over this brand-new superhero. Fact is, friends, we haven't seen so much excitement around here in years, as the gang wonders exactly when Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN, Big JOHN BUSCEMA, and Joltin' JOE SINNOTT will actually finish the balmy book! Even STAN the Man has caught the NOVA fever, by making this a monthly title even before the first issue comes out! That's how sure he is, and that's how sure we all are that you'll really dig this newcomer. So, join Richard Rider and company, for a trek into superhero action like you've never seen before!

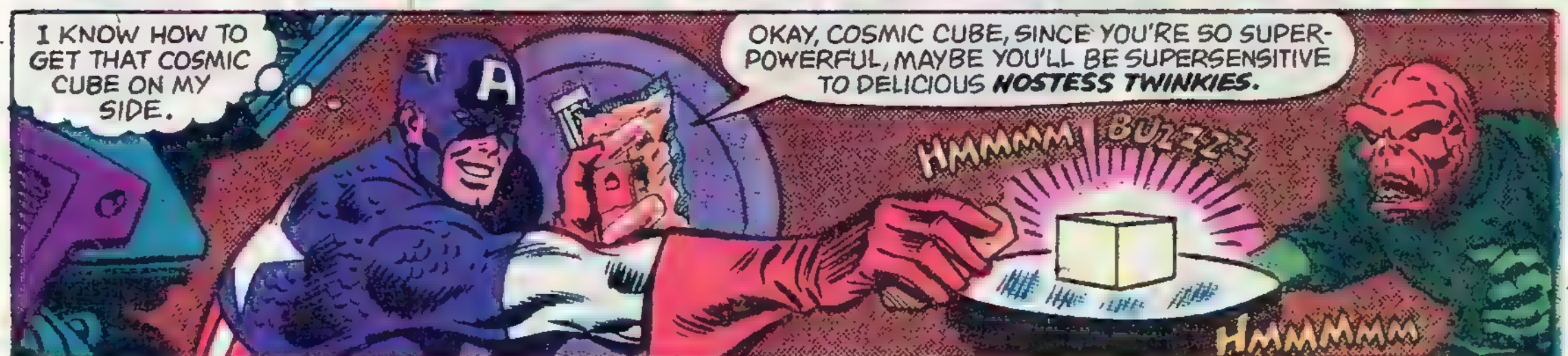
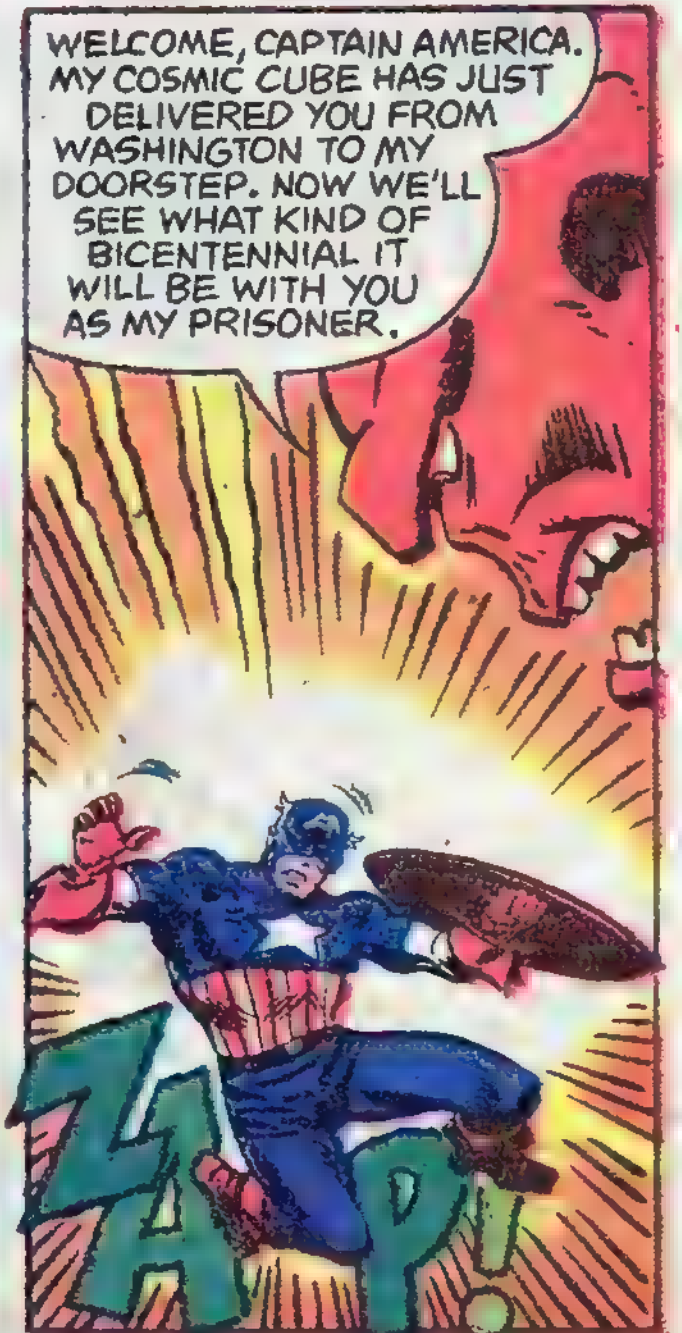
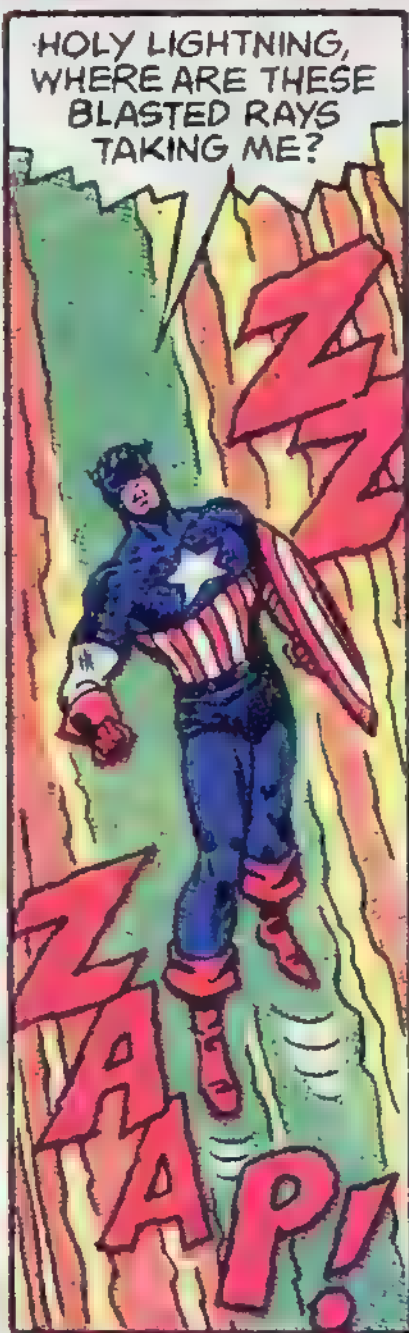
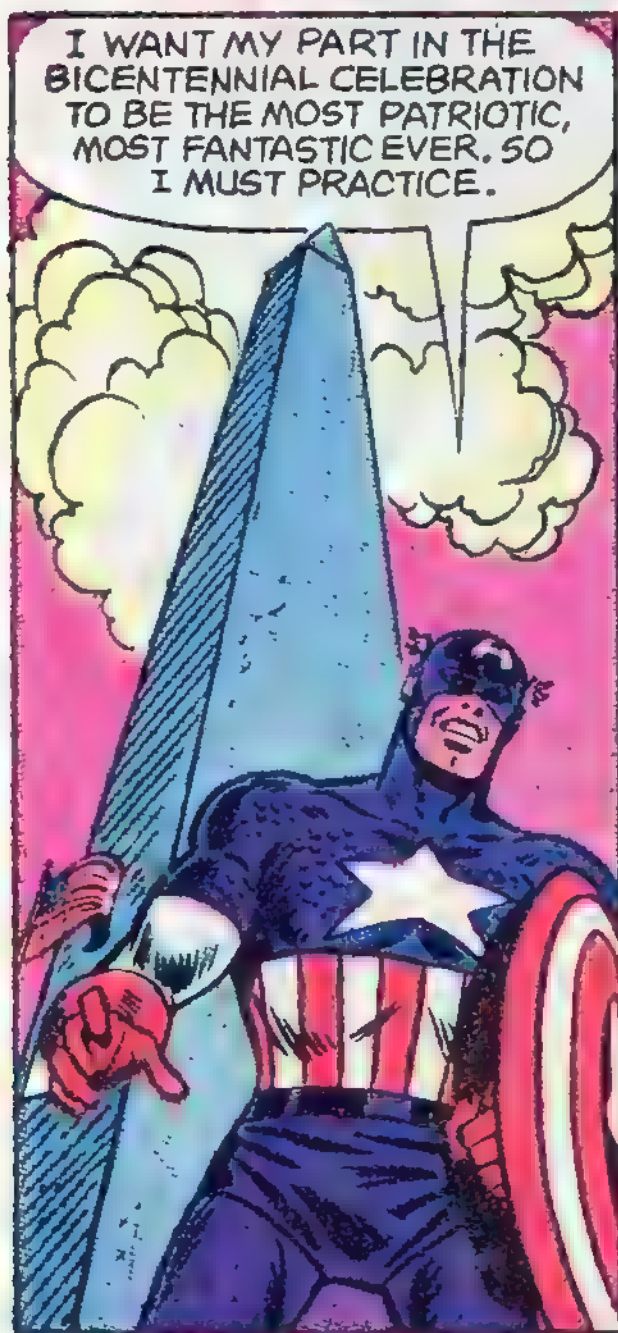
ITEM! Lately we've been deluged with No Prize requests for everything from finding a spelling error that one of our infamous armadillos may have somehow let slip by, to discovering a fingernail missing on a character's hand. So, we thought we'd like to restate the philosophy behind the No Prize, here and now, where every Marvelite will be sure to read it! Nearly nobody likes to be a loser, and everyone likes to be a winner, so, if we give an actual prize for spotting some major mistake, there will be some losers who won't be getting anything. Therefore, we created, long before the dawn of man, or maybe a week or two after, the No Prize! Awarded for the discovery of some error of major proportions that cannot be explained by a Bullpenner, or for some meritorious feat of research, or for any act of Marveldom heroism, above and beyond the call of sanity! The No Prize eliminates losers, 'cause—how can there be a loser for a No Prize? And, for those of you who have never been no-prized, the incredible impact of the awesome honor, if and when you get it, will be one of the greatest events of your life—exceeded only by that fateful day when you learn about sugarless bubble gum—or that girls are different from boys!

ITEM! Hey! We're running out of room, so we've got just one rhapsodical request. Y'see, we're trying to work up a list of all the college comic book courses that are being taught across the country, for sinister reasons known only to the High Armadillo. So, if ya know of one, attend one, or teach such a course, drop us a card, eh? Until next month, don't live in gloom—back FOOM!

THE
MARVEL
EXPLOSION IS
COMING!

CAPTAIN AMERICA™ and THE RED SKULL™

NOTE: THE COSMIC CUBE CAN DO ANYTHING.



AN ADMIRABLE THOUGHT, KEITH; IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A FATAL ONE--BUT, LUCKILY FOR YOU, STILT-MAN'S GOT OTHER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.

LORD ABOVE--
IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE...

NO. I DON'T BELIEVE
IT--THAT FALL SHOULD
HAVE KILLED YOU--

MY
EYES!!

HER ASSAULT IS PHYSI-
CALLY INEFFECTUAL...

...BUT THE METAL-
ENCASED MADMAN
DROPS HER JUST
THE SAME--
PARALYZED
MOMENTARILY BY
A PHOBIA HE
HAS BORNE--

STILT-MAN!!

AUNT
CELIA--!

DON'T BE
AFRAID, AUNT CELIA
--I'M COMING!

--SINCE HIS
EYES WERE ONCE
SLASHED AT
BY THE
FAMED
FALCON'S
TRAINED
HAWK--
REDWING!*

CURSE
YOU,
WOMAN!

HEAD
FOR
COVER,
AUNT
CEIL--

--I THINK WE
GOT US SOME
TROUBLE.

NO ONE IS
SAFE FROM
THE POWER
OF MY
LATEST
WEAPON...

...A
WEAPON
I'LL
USE!

DUCK!

*C.A. #19!
--ARCHIE.

STILT-MAN,
YOUR FIGHT'S
WITH ME,
REMEMBER?

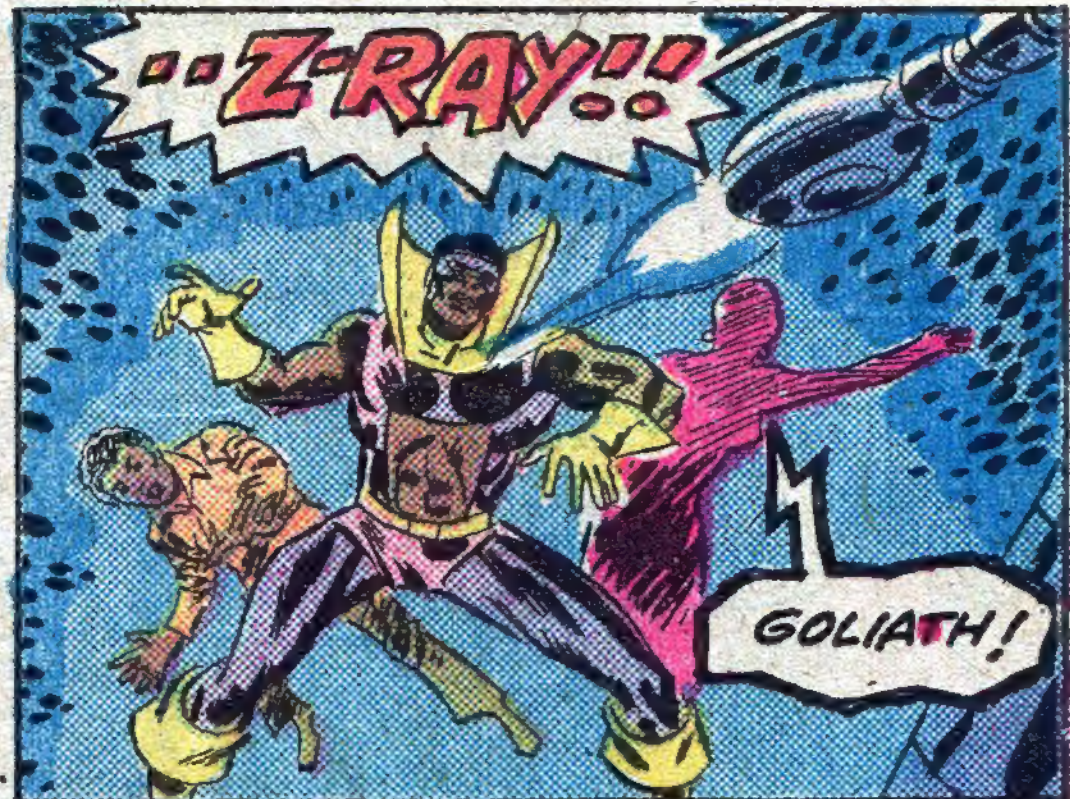
LEAVE CEIL
AND THE BOY
OUT OF THIS!



FROM THE TONE OF YOUR VOICE, GOLIATH, I SENSE STRONG AFFECTION FOR THE WOMAN.

ALL THE BETTER. IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT A MAN DIE SURROUNDED BY THE ONES HE LOVED.

YOU SHOULD BE HONORED, YOU KNOW, FOR YOU WILL BE THE FIRST TO FEEL THE AWESOME POWER OF THE STILT-MAN'S DEADLIEST CREATION, HIS INCOMPARABLE--



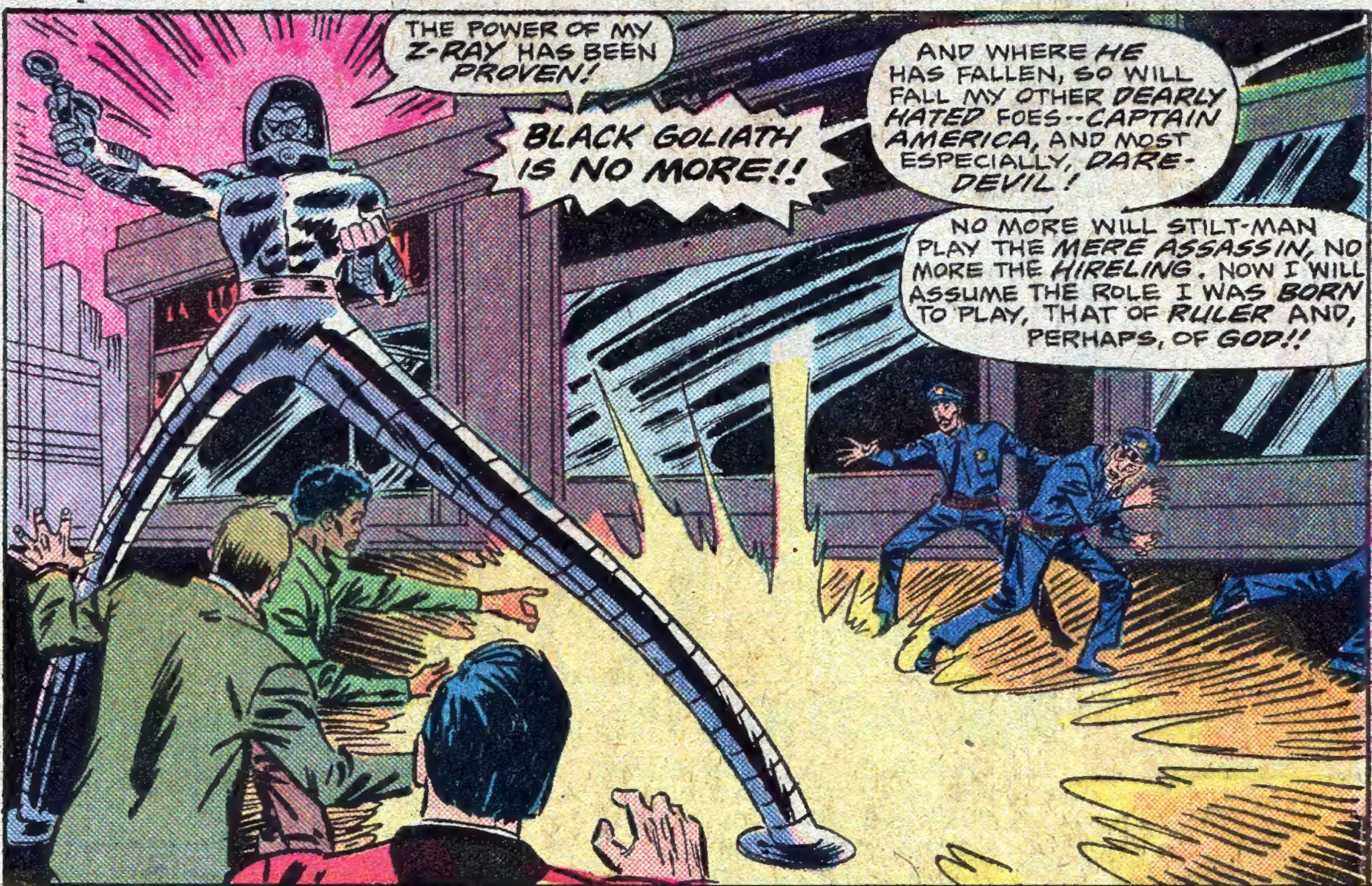
...Z-RAY!!!

GOLIATH!



BY ALL THAT'S HOLY...

...IT--WORKED!!



THE POWER OF MY Z-RAY HAS BEEN PROVEN!

BLACK GOLIATH IS NO MORE!!

AND WHERE HE HAS FALLEN, SO WILL FALL MY OTHER DEARLY HATED FOES--CAPTAIN AMERICA, AND MOST ESPECIALLY, DARE-DEVIL!

NO MORE WILL STILT-MAN PLAY THE MERE ASSASSIN, NO MORE THE HIRELING. NOW I WILL ASSUME THE ROLE I WAS BORN TO PLAY, THAT OF RULER AND, PERHAPS, OF GOD!!

CELIA AND KEITH TRAPPED ON AN ALIEN WORLD, WHERE THEIR ONLY THOUGHTS ARE OF--

SURVIVAL!

AND THEIR ONLY HOPE IS BLACK GOLIATH!

BULLETMAN, THE HUMAN BULLET™ BLASTS INTO THE GI JOE® SUPER ADVENTURE TEAM®

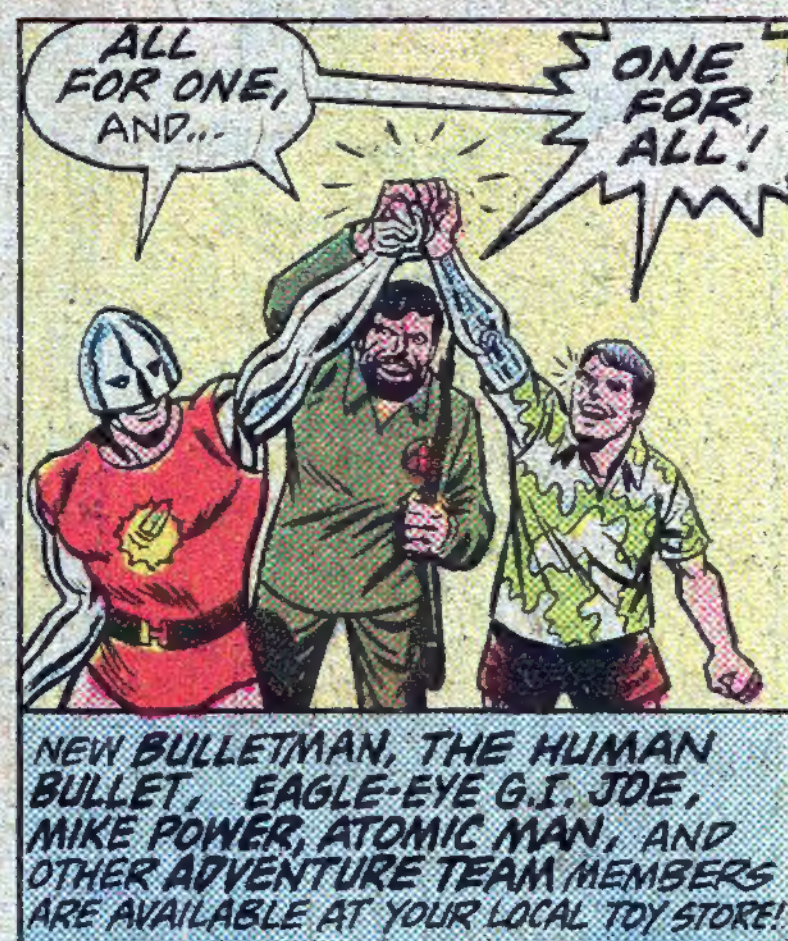
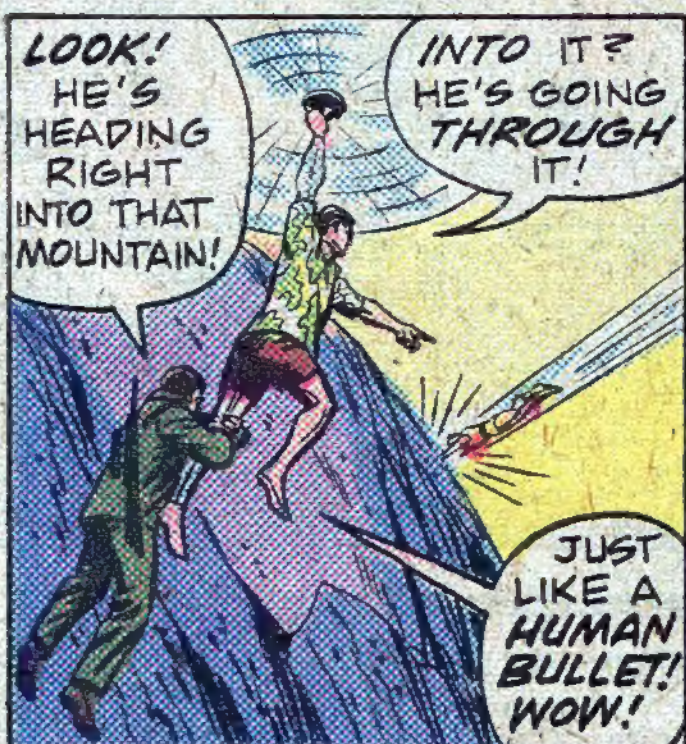
EAGLE-EYE G.I. JOE™ AND MIKE POWER, ATOMIC MAN®, ON PATROL, STUMBLE ONTO GREAT DANGER:



BUT, BEFORE THE ADVENTURE TEAM CAN MAKE A MOVE...



HE'S THE MOST FANTASTIC ACTION HERO YOU'VE EVER SEEN... THAT'S WHO! HE'S BULLETMAN, THE HUMAN BULLET.



FREE!

GI JOE® ACTION PACK

THIS FREE G.I. JOE SUPER ACTION PACK, VALUED AT OVER \$5.00, INCLUDES:

- SPY OUTFIT IN BLACK.
- INFLATABLE LIFE RAFT AND OAR.
- BINOCULARS, RADIO, SIGNAL LIGHT.

AND MORE! JUST MAIL IN THE HASBRO SEAL FROM THE BACK OF ANY EAGLE EYE G.I. JOE, BULLETMAN, ATOMIC MAN OR INTRUDER PACKAGE.

MAIL THE HASBRO SEAL AND THIS COUPON TO:

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ZIP CODE _____ AGE _____

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**POWER ACTION
 BLACK MAGIC
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 BOOKLET
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Ill. residents add 5% sales tax. ☐ Send C.O.D. I enclose \$2 deposit.

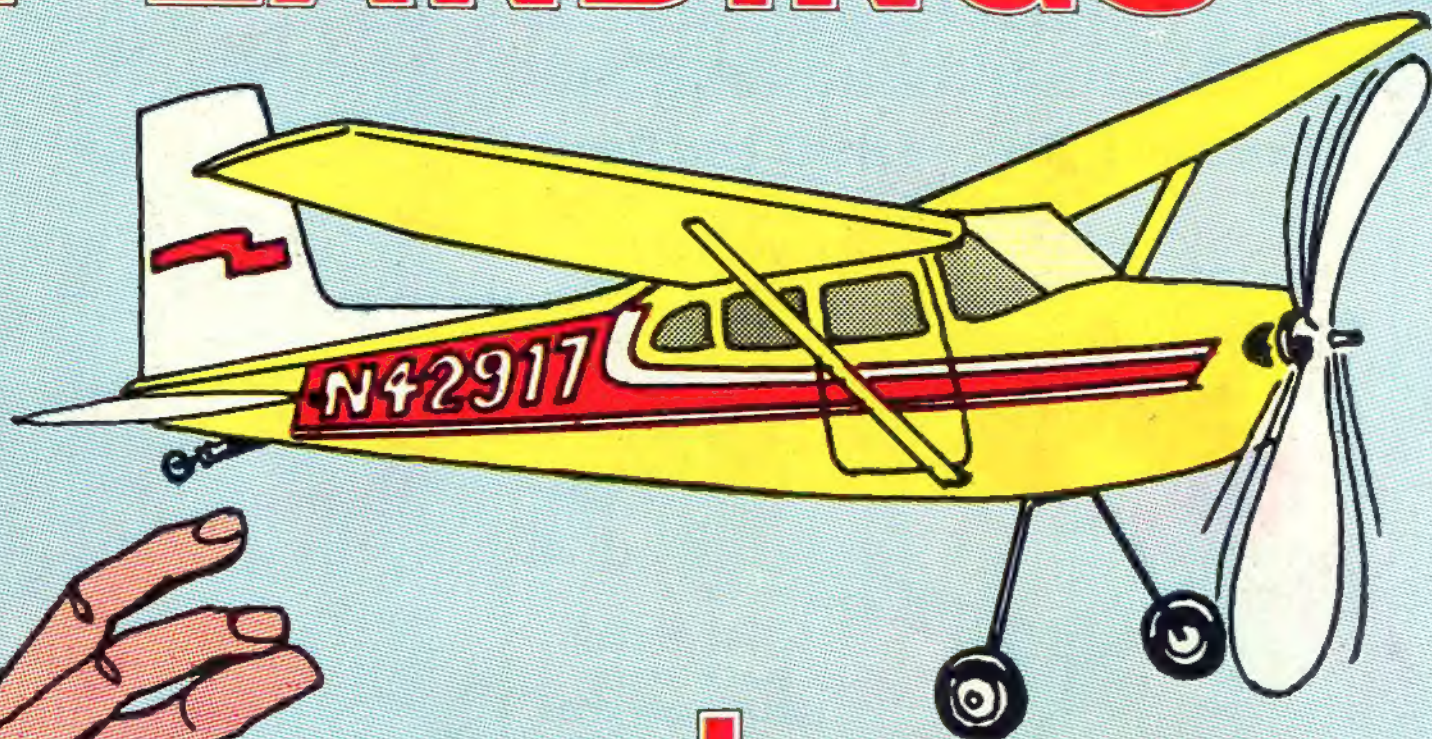
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MANY HAPPY LANDINGS



and launchings

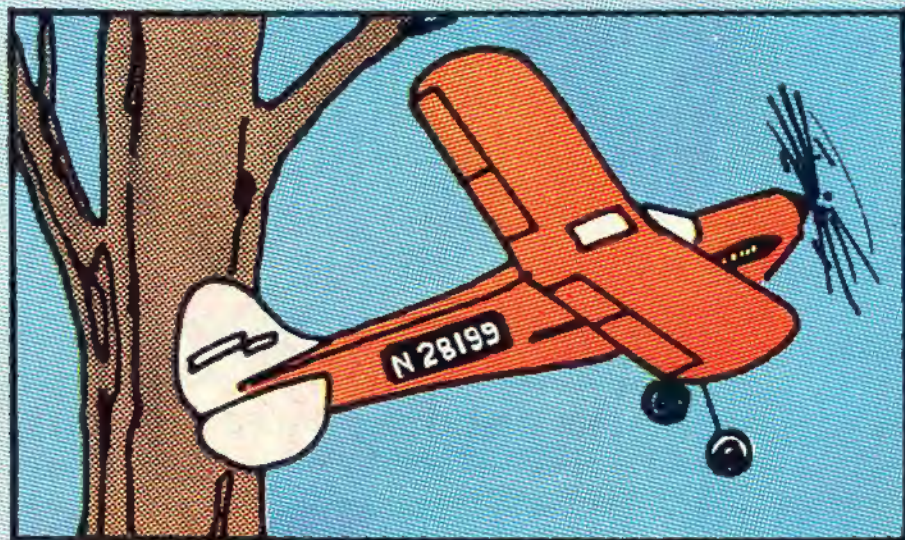
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